

INSIDE

Protesters in L.A. demand jailing of cop who killed Black youth

—PAGE 3

Utah miners use NLRB ruling to press union fight

Decision that votes of workers related to bosses don’t count shows strength of miners’ struggle

BY KATHERINE BENNETT AND PAT MILLER

PRICE, Utah—The recent National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) decision affirming the regional board’s ruling to not count the votes of 108 of the employees of the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, as part of the union representation election there registers an important victory for the miners. The 108 employees, many of them working miners, were ruled ineligible because of the privileged relationship they have with the bosses as members of the Kingston family. The Kingstons are the local capitalist family that owns and operates the mine.

Among the votes rejected by the NLRB were those of officers of the International Association of United Workers Union (IAUWU), which the miners say is run by the company, and many members of the Kingston family who began working in the mine after the company locked out supporters of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) on Sept. 22, 2003.

This labor board decision affirms the strength of the now 17-month-old battle of miners at the Co-Op mine for decent wages, safe working conditions, dignity, and UMWA union representation. Miners involved in this fight told the *Militant* how they are stepping up their union-organizing efforts by expanding their base of solidarity and support.

Co-Op miners have spread the news about their recent victories (see coverage in last two issues) to other miners in the area. At a February 17 meeting of UMWA Local 1769 at the Deer Creek mine, which was addressed by Co-Op miners, the miners’ call for support received a warm reception, and

a contribution of \$1,000 was made to be divided between the Co-Op Miners Fund and the San Rafael Catholic Church’s Mission Fund, which has been used to help miners with rent and utility payments. Members of the local are also planning to participate in the upcoming March 12 solidarity rally for the Co-Op miners in Price, the miners report.

Everywhere they have been invited, the Co-Op miners have explained their fight and appealed for financial contributions to help the 22 miners and their families who are still without work since the mass firings of union supporters last December. The miners said that they had also received a \$300 contribution from UMWA Local 1385 at the Seneca surface mine outside of Craig, Colorado. They have been invited to speak at meetings of the UMWA local at the nearby East Carbon, Utah, landfill, and retired miners UMWA Local 1799 in Craig.

The Co-Op miners also recently traveled to Salt Lake City to attend protests against the attempt of the Utah state legislature to pass a law taking away the right of immigrant workers to have a driver’s license. Ricardo Chávez and William Estrada, two of the leaders of the Co-Op fight, were invited to address a meeting of the protesters. Many of the workers involved in these actions made a point of extending their solidarity to the Co-Op miners and dropping a dollar or two in a donation bucket.

They were also invited to a February 16 benefit for Utah Jobs with Justice that was attended by several hundred people. The event featured folk singer Utah Phillips. The miners set up an information table and

Continued on Page 7

In Cuba, president of Pathfinder Press addresses meetings of revolutionary combatants

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

CIENFUEGOS, Cuba—“Over the past years we received some of your publications, so we know about your work and are very happy to have you here today,” said Flores Quintero, vice-president of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution in the province of Cienfuegos.

Quintero was welcoming Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, to a meeting held February 18 in this city in central Cuba. Waters had been invited to speak about several Pathfinder books through which men and women who have led the Cuban Revolution present their experiences.

“For us, Pathfinder’s work is very important,” he said, addressing some 60 people. “We appreciate the way you tell the truth about our revolution.”

This event, and a similar meeting held the previous day in the city of Matanzas, 50 miles east of Havana, were organized at the initiative of the national leadership of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution (ACRC).

The Association, with more than 300,000

Continued on Page 5

Washington pushes Syria gov’t on Iraq, Lebanon

BY SAM MANUEL

Washington and Paris have used the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri to press for the withdrawal of the Syrian troops that have been stationed in Lebanon since 1976. Accusing the Syrian government of “destabilizing” politics in Lebanon, the imperialist powers are pushing to increase their influence in the Lebanese regime, and to weaken Beirut’s ties to the Baathist party government of Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad.

United Nations officials announced February 18 that a UN commission of inquiry has been assigned to investigate the February 14 assassination of Hariri. The UN probe had been demanded by both Paris and Washington as well as by a section of the opposition in Lebanon that Hariri had led.

In a February 21 speech, U.S. president George Bush called Damascus an “oppressive” occupying power in Lebanon.

“Our shared commitment to democratic progress is being tested in Lebanon—a once-thriving country that now suffers under the influence of an oppressive neighbor,” Bush said February 21 during a visit to Belgium as part of a five-day European tour. “Just as the Syrian regime must take

Continued on Page 2

Washington, Tokyo: defense of Taiwan ‘common objective’

U.S. gov’t warns of Beijing’s military strength, presses EU powers on China arms embargo

BY SAM MANUEL

Washington and Tokyo have revised a 1996 security pact that now describes the Straits of Taiwan as a “common strategic objective” according to a joint statement released by the two governments. The move is part of an escalation in the aggressive posture of the two imperialist powers toward the Chinese workers state. Beijing has condemned the move as meddling in the internal affairs of China.

In a number of recent statements, U.S. officials have expressed alarm that the

growing military and economic might of Beijing may weaken the military balance between the U.S.-backed regime in Taipei and Beijing. During a visit to Belgium, U.S. president George Bush expressed “deep concern” at the prospect of European Union (EU) governments lifting a 15-year-old arms embargo against China, saying access to strategic weapons would “change the balance of relations between China and Taiwan.”

The move by Tokyo to forge a closer

Continued on Page 9



AFP/Jiji Press

Aegis destroyer USS *Lake Erie* docks in Japan’s Nigata port October 11. The ship is part of Washington’s “anti-ballistic missile defense shield” aimed at giving the U.S. military nuclear first-strike capability against China and north Korea.

North Korea protests growing U.S., Japanese gov’t pressure

Tokyo to bar Pyongyang’s ships from its ports

BY DOUG NELSON

Pressure on the north Korean government from Washington and Tokyo to dismantle its nuclear program continues to mount. In the latest moves by the imperialist governments’ against Pyongyang, Tokyo has threatened to impose sanctions against north Korea, and announced its intention to implement a law, March 1, that will in effect bar that country’s ships from Japanese ports.

In September the U.S. Navy deployed Aegis destroyers in the Sea of Japan as part of setting up an anti-ballistic missile system aimed at north Korea.

The following month, Washington led naval exercises in Japan’s Tokyo bay dubbed “Team Samurai” as part of the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which also included warships from Australia, France, and Japan. Pyongyang is one of the principal targets of the PSI, under which participating governments board ships on the high seas to search them for materials that supposedly could be used in the construction of nuclear weapons.

A law enacted by the Japanese Diet last April and scheduled to take effect March 1, requires all ships over 100 tons to have insurance for oil-spill damage. Previously only tankers were required to have this insurance. The measure clearly targets north Korea, as only 3 percent of its ships that dock in Japanese ports have insurance, far

less than Japan’s other trading partners. The measure would substantially cripple trade with north Korea’s third-largest trading partner.

Cash remittances from Koreans in Japan to relatives in north Korea, a valuable source of hard currency for the country, would also be affected by the measure. The Japanese foreign minister threatened February 15 to further restrict remittances by lowering the minimum size of transfers that must be reported to the finance ministry.

As a result of Tokyo’s stricter enforcement of maritime rules against north Korea in recent years, Japan’s trade with

Continued on Page 10

Also Inside:

Union decertified at Tyson packinghouse in Washington 3

N.Y. event protests Lynne Stewart ‘terrorism’ verdict 3

Pittsburgh youth build Venezuela festival delegation 4

Utah gov’t to restrict access to driver’s licence for immigrants 4

Threats against Syria

Continued from front page

stronger action to stop those who support violence and subversion in Iraq, and must end its support for terrorist groups seeking to destroy the hope of peace between Israelis and Palestinians, Syria must also end its occupation of Lebanon.”

There are some 14,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon today. Damascus first deployed soldiers to Lebanon in 1976, a year after civil war broke out. The Syrian forces in Lebanon have ensured a pro-Damascus stance on the part of successive Lebanese governments since the civil war ended in 1990.

The government of Lebanese president Emile Lahoud at first announced that it would not cooperate with the UN investigators, who are being led by a commissioner from the Irish national police. As pressure from both the imperialist powers and the domestic opposition intensified, Lebanese officials said they would cooperate with the UN probe.

Opposition parties in the Lebanese parliament have been calling for intervention from the United Nations to investigate the bombing that killed Hariri, a billionaire construction magnate, and 15 others. Opponents of the Lahoud government have called for a “peaceful independence uprising.” The opposition mobilized thousands February 21, a week after Hariri’s death, to demand that Syrian troops be withdrawn. Samir Franjeh, a leader of Qornet Shehwan Gathering, one of the opposition groups, urged Lebanese to continue protesting daily at Hariri’s grave in Martyrs’ Square in Beirut. He called upon the government to resign, and for the establishment of a “transition cabinet” as a prelude to elections, AP reported.

On the day following the assassination, Washington withdrew its ambassador from Damascus and began to ratchet up its international campaign for the Syrian government to pull its troops out of Lebanon.

Washington and Paris

“The United States and Europe share an interest in a democratic, independent Lebanon,” Bush said in the February 21 speech. “My nation and France worked to pass Security Council Resolution 1559, which demands that Lebanon’s sovereignty be respected, that foreign troops and agents be withdrawn, and that free elections be conducted without foreign influence.”

Pointing to the elections organized in Iraq and Afghanistan under U.S. occupation and the recent national presidential election in the occupied Palestinian territories, Bush said, “Without Syrian interference, Lebanon’s parliamentary elections in the spring can be another milestone of liberty.”

Paris and Washington are jockeying for position in Lebanon and Syria, former French colonial possessions that Paris still considers part of its “sphere of influence.” Unlike its open disagreement with the U.S. government over the Iraq invasion, Paris has so far been working closely with its rival in Washington to weaken Damascus’s influence in Lebanon.

Chirac was one of the first to call for an international inquiry into Hariri’s assassination and the French president traveled to Lebanon two days afterward, ostensibly to pay his respects to the Hariri family. Lebanese defense minister Abd al-Rahim Murad accused Chirac of giving encouragement to Lebanon’s opposition during the visit. Murad said Chirac snubbed government officials, including President Lahoud, Al-Jazeera reported.

Speaking to France-3 television February 18, Bush said he and Chirac should set aside past differences and focus on the Middle East, particularly Lebanon, the Associated Press reported. Asked what course he would take if Damascus refused to withdraw troops from Lebanon, Bush replied, “the Syrians will get the message” if the “international community” speaks with one voice.

The Bush administration is considering a range of new sanctions it could impose against Syria, and U.S. administration officials have suggested that international sanctions may be sought, possibly through the United Nations.

Under the provisions of the Syrian Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, which flew through the U.S. Congress with near-unanimous approval in November 2003, Washington already maintains a series of economic sanctions against Syria. It could use the act to deny Syrian commercial aircraft the right to fly over U.S. airspace and to prohibit U.S. companies from doing business with Syria. Bush could also issue an executive order freezing Syrian assets in U.S. banks. Using the Patriot Act, the president has the authority to cut off Syria’s access to banking institutions that serve as clearing-

houses for international transactions—not just with the United States, the *Washington Post* reported.

Iraq-Syria border

“To promote peace in the broader Middle East, we must confront regimes that continue to harbor terrorists and pursue weapons of mass murder,” Bush said in his February 2 State of the Union speech. “Syria still allows its territory, and parts of Lebanon, to be used by terrorists who seek to destroy every chance of peace in the region.”

Washington has accused Damascus of harboring supporters of the former Baath Party government of Saddam Hussein, who U.S. officials say are now involved in financing and leading the armed insurgency in Iraq.

The U.S. government has reportedly made some progress in pressuring Damascus to tighten up security along its borders with Iraq. “In addition to stepping up its border patrols, Syria has built a berm and several watchtowers along a portion of the southern reach of the border,” the *Los Angeles Times* reported February 7.

“It’s minimal, to be honest,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Woodbridge, a commander of a Marine battalion along the Syrian border, referring to the increased Syrian presence at the border. “But it’s done a lot to shut down mortar attacks.”

The *Times* reported that the Marines began stopping passenger trains from Damascus to Baghdad late last year. “So brazen had the insurgents become,” the *Times* reported, “that they were putting foreign fighters on passenger trains that passed within a stone’s throw of the main Marine camp here.”

Pressure on Iran

Washington has also used the events in Lebanon to press its campaign against the Iranian government. In addition to demanding the withdrawal of Syrian troops, U.S. officials are also calling for the disbanding of Hezbollah, a large political party and militia based in the Shiite Muslim community in southern Lebanon, which led a military campaign against the occupation of that region by Israeli forces. The group, which reportedly receives support from both Damascus and Tehran, is on Washington’s list of “terrorist” organizations.

Washington accuses the Iranian government of “sponsoring terror” because of its support for Hezbollah. UN Resolution 1559 includes a call for “the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias”—a clear reference to Hezbollah.



Ramzi Haidar/AFP/Getty Images

Thousands of people, organized by parliamentary opposition, protest February 21 at Martyrs’ Square in Beirut, Lebanon. Since the assassination of former prime minister a week earlier, pro-imperialist forces have launched a campaign demanding withdrawal of Syrian troops.

Paris has so far rebuffed appeals by Washington and Tel Aviv to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, a move Washington hopes to use to shut down the group’s offices and cut off its fund-raising activities in Europe, as it has done in the United States.

In response to the stepped-up threats, the Iranian government said it would form a “common front” with Syria, Al-Jazeera reported. “We are ready to help Syria on all grounds to confront threats,” said Iranian vice president Mohammad Reza Aref. He said Tehran would draw on its more than two decades of experience in dealing with U.S. sanctions to aid Damascus.

Order Now!

**2004 Bound Volume
of the ‘Militant’
\$60 per volume**

**2004 Bound Volume
of ‘Perspectiva Mundial’
\$30 per volume**

**Send your check or money order to:
‘The Militant’ at 306 W. 37th Street,
10th Floor, New York, NY 10018
Or call: (212) 244-4899**

THE MILITANT

**16th World Festival of Youth and Students
Caracas, Venezuela, August 7–15, 2005**

Thousands of young people will participate in the world youth festival this summer in Venezuela. Their presence will be an important answer to the imperialist-backed campaign, which aims to overthrow the government of Hugo Chávez and deal a blow to efforts of workers and farmers there to extend the gains they’ve won. The ‘Militant’ brings you the facts. Don’t miss an issue!



16° Festival Mundial de
la Juventud y los Estudiantes
VENEZUELA
2 0 0 5

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$10 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$15 for 12 weeks

☐ \$27 for 6 months

☐ \$45 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

PHONE

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A20 • United Kingdom, £8 • Canada, Can\$15 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$15 • Continental Europe, £12 • France, 20 Euros • Iceland, Kr1,800 • New Zealand, NZ\$20 • Sweden, Kr75 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 69/No. 9

Closing news date: February 23, 2005

Editor: ARGIRIS MALAPANIS
Business Manager: MICHAEL ITALIE
Washington Bureau Chief: SAM MANUEL
Editorial Staff: Róger Calero, Arrin Hawkins, Michael Italie, Martín Koppel, Sam Manuel, Doug Nelson, and Paul Pederson.
Published weekly except for one week in January, June, July, and September.
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899; Fax (212) 244-4947.
E-mail: TheMilitant@verizon.net
The Militant **website** is: www.themilitant.com
Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.
Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Subscriptions: **United States:** for one-year subscription send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above

address. By first-class (airmail), send \$80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send \$65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian \$50 for one-year subscription to Militant, 6955 Boul. St. Michel suite 202, Montreal, QC. Postal Code: H2A 2Z3.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £70 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address. **France:** Send 115 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 3,500 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 400 Swedish kronor for one year. Domargränd 16, S-129 47 Hägersten, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. **Australia:** Send Australian \$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia. **Pacific Islands:** Send New Zealand \$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Protesters in L.A. condemn cop killing of Devin Brown, 13

BY BETSEY STONE

LOS ANGELES—The cold-blooded police killing of 13-year-old Devin Brown in the early morning hours of February 6 has been met with outrage here.

On February 8 several hundred people marched from the corner of West 83 Street and South Western Avenue, where Brown was shot, to the Bethel AME Church several blocks away. This was followed by a vigil and protest meeting at the church later that night. Hundreds more filled the church and part of the street outside for the funeral on February 15. A citywide protest is scheduled for February 26.

Brown was killed at 4:00 a.m. when a cop fired 10 rounds into the car he was driving after a chase on the Los Angeles freeway. Police allege that Brown was driving a stolen car when he went through a red light, leading to the police pursuit.

The boy, an eighth-grader at Audubon Middle School, was pronounced dead on the scene. Fourteen-year-old Chad Richardson, who was with him, fled the car

and was later arrested and charged with auto theft.

There is widespread skepticism about the cops' claim that their lives were threatened when, at the end of the chase, the car Brown was driving jumped the curb, stopped, and then went into reverse, sideswiping the patrol car.

On the day of the shooting signs were displayed at the corner where Brown died. The Associated Press reported one reading, "LAPD... Thank you for giving us yet another reason to dislike your services. We have seen enough deaths caused by you and do not agree with your execution of yet another young black male. You are a cancer to the community."

Some media commentators have sought to take the spotlight off the issue of police brutality and place the blame for Devin Brown's death on the family, because he was not at home at 4:00 a.m.

At the funeral, Charlie Rushing, pastor of the Slater Street Missionary Baptist Church, answered the attacks' on Brown's



February 8 protest in L.A. at corner where police shot 13-year-old Devin Brown 10 times.

family, voicing the view of many when he said, "Whatever that child was doing out that time of night, he should not have been killed," the *Los Angeles Times* reported. He added that Devin's father died of heart failure a little over a year ago, and that his mother works two jobs.

The Brown killing comes on the heels of an announcement by the district attorney's office that the cops who were videotaped last June brutalizing Stanley Miller, a car theft suspect, will not be prosecuted. A

news helicopter video aired at the time showed Miller being pushed to the ground and then kicked and hit 11 times in the head area with a police flashlight. Eight cops were on the scene, CNN reported.

In January a jury awarded \$2.4 million to two police in the nearby town of Inglewood, who had been caught on video brutalizing a handcuffed Black teenager.

In an attempt to quell the growing anger over cops getting away with brutality, the city Police Commission quickly moved after the killing of Devin Brown to revise police guidelines to say that cops cannot fire into a moving vehicle unless threatened with deadly force other than a vehicle.

In the wake of the killing, the city council of Los Angeles turned down a request by Mayor James Hahn to put an initiative on the ballot for a higher sales tax to pay for more police. A similar measure on the state ballot in the last election was turned down by voters.

As the race for mayor of Los Angeles enters its final weeks, Wendy Lyons, candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, has called for the prosecution of the cops who shot Devin Brown. "More guidelines for cops won't solve the problem," she said in a statement released after the killing. "In their utter contempt for working people the police claim that anyone they shoot seemed to have a weapon. That's why we say, 'Jail the guilty cops!'"

In an interview on the "Talk of the City" program on National Public Radio on February 22, Lyons urged the largest possible turnout for the February 26 demonstration.

Teamsters union decertified at Tyson packing plant in Washington state

BY CHRIS HOEPPNER AND CONNIE ALLEN

WALLULA, Washington—The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) announced February 11 that workers at the Tyson beef slaughterhouse here voted to decertify Teamsters Local 556 by a vote of 690 to 586. The union had represented some 1,500 meatpackers at the plant for 28 years. Union officials have appealed the outcome, citing company intimidation of workers, and have also filed unfair labor charges.

The February 9–11 election was a revote of a previous election last April, which the union won by a margin of 52 percent. The April vote was overturned by the NLRB in December on an appeal by Tyson after the local labor board upheld the election.

Tyson organized a concerted antiunion campaign with in-plant meetings, letters to workers, enticements, and threats, workers told the *Militant*. "The company used threats to scare people into voting against the union, implying they would close the plant if the union won," said one worker.

In January the owners laid off about 400 workers, claiming they were losing money from the decline in U.S. beef exports after the discovery of mad cow disease at a Washington State plant in late 2003. The previous five-year agreement expired last May. In addition to appealing the results of the decertification election, the union filed unfair labor practice charges against Tyson for failing to bargain in good faith for a contract.

In addition to threats, workers said, the bosses tried to convince them to vote out

the union by presenting themselves as benefactors of "Team Members," as they call production workers. A Vietnamese worker with 25 years at the plant said, "the company paid workers 32 hours pay per week when they were laid off—they didn't have to do that." Two days after the union lost the election, Tyson announced that all workers on layoff would be recalled the following week, and scheduled overtime for the next Saturday, for the first time in months.

The union organized a January 29 rally at the Laborers union hall in Pasco to support the Tyson workers in their fight against decertification. Speakers highlighted a report by Human Rights Watch, "Blood, Sweat and Fear: Workers' Rights in the U.S. Meat and Poultry Plants," which criticizes Tyson

for violating workplace health and safety, workers' freedom of association, and the rights of immigrants in the meatpacking industry. Teamster members emphasized that a union was needed in order to win safe working conditions, pointing to 2002 federal records that show Tyson's Wallula plant has an injury rate 2.5 times higher than the industry average. The program also featured Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation*, who laid out his criticisms of the meatpacking industry.

The company campaign to divide the workers also focused on charging Local 556 union officials with being "confrontational." The current union leadership was elected in 2000 after a strike against IBP, the previous owner before Tyson Foods bought the plant in 2001.

N.Y. event protests Lynne Stewart 'terrorism' verdict

BY MIKE FITZSIMMONS

NEW YORK—About 300 people attended a rally here at the Community Church of New York in defense of attorney Lynne Stewart. The meeting was one of a number of events called by the National Lawyers Guild as part of a "National Day of Outrage" to protest Stewart's conviction in federal court on charges of "conspiracy to provide material support to terrorist activity" and "conspiring to defraud" the U.S. government.

On February 10 Stewart was convicted on all five charges against her in federal court in New York at the end of a seven-month trial. This was the first prosecution of a defense attorney in a "terrorism" case. Sentencing has been set for September.

"We want one million letters urging Judge John Koeltl not to sentence me to jail," Stewart told the crowd. "We also need speak-outs, protests, large and small meetings, and we want an outpouring in September for the sentencing." Stewart is free on bail, although restricted from traveling outside the state of New York. She faces a maximum prison term of at least 20 years.

Stewart, 65, was one of the lawyers for Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, from 1994 to 2002. Abdel-Rahman, a Muslim cleric, was convicted in 1993 on frame-up charges of conspiracy to bomb the World Trade Center and attack other New York City landmarks. Three years later he was sentenced to life in prison plus 65 years, and is being held at the maximum-security prison in Florence, Colorado.

Her two co-defendants were also convicted of all charges against them. Mohammed Yousry, an Arabic interpreter, could be sentenced to 20 years for "providing material support to terrorist activity." Ahmed Abdel

Sattar, a paralegal for Abdel-Rahman, faces up to life in prison for "conspiracy to kill and kidnap persons in a foreign country."

The case against all three defendants was based on 85,000 wiretapped conversations and fax transmissions by the government over a seven-year period, according to a Lynne Stewart Defense Committee fact sheet. The prosecutors accused Stewart of violating restrictions imposed on Abdel-Rahman, aimed at preventing him from communicating with supporters, and of issuing a press statement in June 2000 announcing Abdel-Rahman's withdrawal of support for a cease-fire between his supporters and the Egyptian government.

Along with her co-counsels in the Abdel-Rahman case—former attorney general Ramsey Clark and civil rights attorney Abdeen Jabara—Stewart tried to address the conditions imposed on Abdel-Rahman. The cleric is blind and diabetic, and is held in isolation without contact with others who speak his language or practice his religious customs. She said their goal was to eventually win his transfer to Egypt.

"If you need a lawyer, you want him or her to have only one concern, the defense of your interests," Stewart said at the rally. This point was emphasized by several of the panelists, among whom were leaders of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Laura Raymond of the NLG chapter at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, reported on the other NLG protests that had taken place that day across the country. This included events in Birmingham, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Bellingham, Washington.



Lynne Stewart at courthouse in June

In addition to Clark and Jabara, the moderator, Martin Stolar of the NLG, recognized others in the crowd, including Leonard Weinglass. Weinglass is the lawyer for Antonio Guerrero, one of the five Cuban revolutionaries framed by the FBI on "conspiracy" charges, including conspiracy to commit espionage for the Cuban government, and murder. The five maintain that they were in the United States collecting information on the activities of counterrevolutionary groups that have a history of launching violent attacks on Cuba from U.S. soil.

Stolar also announced a meeting of the Lynne Stewart Defense Committee. For more information, contact the committee at 350 Broadway, Suite 700, New York, NY 10013, call (212) 625-9696, or online at www.lynnestewart.org.

Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay

Featuring "Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future" by Karl Marx

by Leon Trotsky, Farrell Dobbs, Karl Marx

Food for thought—and action—from revolutionary leaders of three different generations of the modern working-class movement. Invaluable to the practical education of militant

workers who are relearning today what a strike is and how it can be fought and won. And who, in the course of such struggles, become interested in the ideas of fellow unionists fighting alongside them about how the entire system of capitalist exploitation can be ended. **\$15.00**

www.pathfinderpress.com

Utah: hundreds protest bill restricting driver’s license for immigrants

BY LUIS ASTORGA

SALT LAKE CITY—“We are here to work and help our families in Mexico,” said Manuel Marcial, one of 500 people who rallied February 18 in front of the state capitol building in Salt Lake City to protest Senate Bill (SB) 227, which passed its first Senate vote that day. The bill would take driver’s licenses away from those who cannot prove they are legal U.S. residents, and instead issue them a driving “privilege” card.

Currently Utah is one of 10 states that do not require a Social Security number in order to obtain a driver’s license, according to the *Salt Lake Tribune*. In its place, an “individual tax identification number” issued by the Internal Revenue Service is accepted. SB 227 would require an applicant to prove he or she is a U.S. citizen or resident, or else be left to apply for the so-called privilege card.

This new card will use “a format, color, font, or other means to clearly distinguish the driving privilege card from driver licenses.” The phrase “For Driving Privilege Only—Not Valid for Identification,” is to be clearly displayed on the card. Protesters pointed out that this means anyone who sees the card will immediately know the resident status of the individual, including the police and prospective employers.

SB 227 is one among several bills being discussed in the state senate and state house of representatives aimed at restricting access to driver’s licenses.

The Utah bill is part of a national trend towards increasing the role of the driver’s license as a form of identification. These moves coincide with an ongoing discussion—under the banner of improving “homeland security”—among politicians in both the Republican and Democratic parties to institute a national identification card and database to boost the powers of the police, employers, and others to access and use private information about individuals.

The rally was called the day after a meeting at the Centro Cívico Mexicano. The February 17 meeting was attended by more

than 800 people, many coming from work after hearing the call on the local Spanish-language radio. The meeting reflected the anger and sentiments of the many who will be directly affected by the bill. Many asked why groups like the Utah Hispanic Legislative Task Force, which speak in the name of the Latino community, are supporting a bill that will hurt a large number of Latinos in the state of Utah.

This meeting followed one called a day earlier, where Marco Diaz, a representative of the Utah Hispanic Legislative Task Force, tried to explain the group’s support for the bill. His comments provoked such strong opposition from those at the meeting that he couldn’t go on, and left the room.

The rally at the state capitol was called to coincide with the Senate vote on SB 227. The bill passed the Senate by an 18-8 vote and will now proceed to the state house of representatives.



Militant/Katherine Bennett

Some 500 people gathered February 18 outside the Utah state capitol in Salt Lake City to protest Senate Bill 227, which would create a special driving “privilege” card for workers who don’t present proof that they are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Event marks 40 years since Malcolm X assassination

BY SAM MANUEL

NEWYORK—Some 200 people attended a 40th anniversary event honoring the life of Malcolm X here February 21. The program was held in the Audubon Ballroom, where the outstanding fighter for Black rights and revolutionary internationalist leader was assassinated 40 years ago to the day just before he was to address a rally of the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU).

“We are working to transform this site of the tragic death of my father into a center of support of the international struggle for justice and equality for which he gave his life,” said Ilyasah Shabazz, one of Malcolm’s six daughters. She was joined by two of her sisters, Malaak and Gamillah. They are heading a project to convert the ballroom into a community center, which will also house a multimedia presentation using films and books to make Malcolm’s views available. The center, which will honor the life and work of Malcolm and his wife Betty

Shabazz, is scheduled to open on May 19, marking Malcolm’s 80th birthday.

Among the speakers were Benjamin Karim and Abdullah H. Abdur-Razzaq (James Shabazz), Malcolm’s closest collaborators in the OAAU, as well as Peter Bailey, who edited the OAAU newsletter *Blacklash*. This was the first time they had appeared together on the same platform in decades, and each noted they had not returned to the Audubon since Malcolm’s death. Karim was recruited by Malcolm to the Nation of Islam in 1957, became an assistant minister, and remained with Malcolm following the break with the NOI. Shabazz was a co-leader of the OAAU.

Among other speakers were Congressman Charles Rangel, Democratic politician Alfred Sharpton, Shabazz family lawyer and former Manhattan Borough president Percy Sutton, Mount Vernon mayor Ernest Davis, and New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The event at the Audubon was one of several commemorations held throughout the city. Noting the increase in Malcolm’s popularity and interest in his ideas,

several speakers commented that at the time of his death no church in the city was willing to hold his funeral.

Drawing on the rich experience of his collaboration with revolutionary fighters in Africa and the Middle East, Malcolm began organizing the OAAU among Afro-Americans living in Ghana during his visit there. “You tell me what kind of country this is,” he said at the OAAU’s founding rally in June 1964. “Why should we do the dirtiest jobs for the lowest pay?... I’m telling you we do it because we...have a rotten system. It’s a system of exploitation, a political and economic system of exploitation, of outright humiliation, degradation, discrimination.”



Robert Parent

Malcolm X speaking at founding public meeting of Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU), June 28, 1964, Audubon Ballroom, New York City.

‘Militant’ sub renewal faces challenge

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Subscription Renewal Campaign February 5 – March 6: Week Two						
Country	Militant			PM		
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	
AUSTRALIA	10	5	50%	2	1	
NEW ZEALAND						
Auckland	7	4	57%	0	0	
Christchurch	3	0	0%	0	0	
N.Z. total	10	4	40%	0	0	
SWEDEN	4	1	25%	1	0	
UNITED STATES						
Detroit	8	4	50%	2	1	
Newark	15	6	40%	2	0	
Philadelphia	10	4	40%	1	0	
Los Angeles	20	8	40%	10	5	
Seattle	8	3	38%	3	1	
NE Pennsylvania	8	3	38%	5	0	
Boston	15	5	33%	5	1	
Houston	15	4	27%	3	0	
Cleveland	8	2	25%	3	1	
Miami	12	3	25%	3	0	
Price, UT	8	2	25%	6	1	
New York	30	6	20%	8	0	
Omaha	5	1	20%	4	0	
Des Moines	10	2	20%	5	1	
Tampa	6	1	17%	3	1	
Atlanta	15	2	13%	3	1	
Chicago	15	2	13%	5	0	
Birmingham	10	1	10%	2	0	
Washington	14	1	7%	3	0	
Twin Cities	15	1	7%	6	0	
San Francisco	18	1	6%	7	0	
Craig, CO	10	0	0%	2	0	
Pittsburgh	10	0	0%	1	0	
U.S. total	285	62	22%	92	13	
CANADA						
Montreal	6	1	17%	2	0	
Toronto	10	1	10%	0	0	
CANADA total	16	2	13%	2	0	
UNITED KINGDOM						
Edinburgh	3	0	0%	0	0	
London	10	1	10%	0	0	
UK total	13	1	8%	0	0	
ICELAND	2	0	0%	0	0	
Int'l totals	340	75	22%	97	14	
Goal/Should be	325	163	50%	80	40	

BY DOUG NELSON

Partisans of the socialist press involved in the four-week subscription renewal drive to expand the long-term readership of the *Militant* and its sister publication in Spanish, *Perspectiva Mundial*, have a substantial challenge ahead to meet the campaign’s international goal of 325 renewals to the *Militant* and 80 for *Perspectiva Mundial*.

At the end of the second week—halfway through the campaign—75 subscription renewals have been collected, just 22 percent of the goal. Only three areas—Sydney, Australia; Auckland, New Zealand; and Detroit, Michigan, are currently on target having collected least half of their local goal.

A concerted, collective effort is needed starting now in order to meet the overall goal by May 6.

This week is key to significantly step up work to bring in renewals, not only to catch-up, but to allow time for readers who send their subscription cards and money through the mail. Organizing house visits and follow-up discussions also takes time and planning.

Those participating in the campaign are asked to send in reports and examples of success to the *Militant* to keep readers informed of the campaign’s progress and inspire others around the world to follow suit.

Penn. youth build Venezuela festival

BY RON SMITH

PITTSBURGH— A group of youth in western Pennsylvania have formed a local organizing committee (LOC) to build a delegation from the area to the 16th World Festival of Youth and Students, which will take place August 7–15 in Caracas, Venezuela. The Western Pennsylvania LOC held its first fund-raiser February 10. The event was a film showing and discussion on *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*, a documentary depicting the April 2002 imperialist-backed coup against the government of Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez, and the mass mobilizations of workers and peasants that defeated it. The event was held at a local night spot, The Shadow Lounge, in East Liberty.

“We wanted to help people understand the situation in Venezuela, the real politics,” said Chris Sang, a member of the committee and a student at the University of Pittsburgh. “It was also very important to show the power of the people, and also show that without the people, Chávez wouldn’t be in power. They rallied to his side, and actually were fighting for themselves. Venezuelans don’t want to be controlled by the 10 percent of the people. That is not democracy.”

The film showing drew 15 people. Discussion after the film revolved around the possibilities of revolutionary action in the United States, the role of 20,000 Cuban volunteers participating in health-care and education

programs in Venezuela, the role and control of media in society, and the planning of activities for the local committee.

Members of the committee are building the youth festival at several local campuses and in working-class communities. They are making presentations to a number of student groups, setting up information tables at campuses, and posting flyers weekly. The committee holds a weekly Sunday meeting at a coffee shop near campus open to all interested in supporting the work of the youth festival. The most recent gathering, held February 20, drew 12 people, two of whom were attending their first meeting.

“We are striving to make the delegation as inclusive as possible,” Sang stressed. On February 15 the LOC sent a delegation to Penn State University. After meeting with these members of the group, students on campus interested in the festival decided to form a new committee themselves.

“We seek to reach people who may never have been outside of Pittsburgh, to get them go to Venezuela,” said Sang. “And it is important for others to see that they are not alone, for them to see what others around the world are going through, and that we are on the same path. This is reaching across borders, cultures, and languages.”

For more information and to get involved, contact the committee at worldyouthfest_wpa@yahoo.com

‘Books to prepare us for class battles ahead’

Pathfinder Press president speaks to Association of Combatants of Cuban Revolution

The following are remarks by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, at a February 18 meeting in Cienfuegos, Cuba, sponsored by the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution, the “Combatientes.” The previous day Waters had spoken at another meeting sponsored by the Combatientes in Matanzas. On the platform with Waters at both meetings was Iraida Aguirrechu of the Havana publishing house Editora Política. Also speaking in Cienfuegos was Lt. Col. Flores Quintero, vice president of the ACRC there. Marcelo Verdecia, a retired brigadier general who is president of the ACRC in Cienfuegos province, joined them on the speakers platform (See news article on the two meetings on front page.) Waters’s remarks are copyright © 2005 by Pathfinder Press, printed by permission.

First of all, a thank you to compañera Iraida of Editora Política for her generous introduction. And a special thanks to both the national leadership of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution and the provincial leadership here in Cienfuegos who have made this meeting possible.

For us, it is a real honor to be able to join you here today to present the books we have

preconceived schemas. It is not an ideology, a method, or a set of ideas. It is only the generalization of the lessons of the struggles of the working class on the road to its emancipation, enriched by every battle. That is a big “only.” And it is why an accurate account of our history is so necessary for us.

Expanding collaboration

The collaboration between Pathfinder and compañeros who are today part of the national leadership of the Combatientes Association began more than a dozen years ago. I first met compañero Harry Villegas—Pombo—along with compañero Urbano in 1993, in the offices of Editora Política. Working with Editora Política, we were in the final stages of preparing a new English-language edition of the *Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. The original edition, published less than a year after Che was killed in combat there, had long been out of print in the United States. We needed help identifying people in photos, preparing maps for the new edition, and understanding a few of the more obscure references and “cubanisms” in the text.

I remember well that back then I didn’t even know what “conгри” was. [Congri is a popular term, in eastern Cuba especially, for a dish made of black beans and rice.]

Pombo came to our rescue, and from then on the collaboration grew. We began work on *Pombo, a Man of Che’s ‘Guerrilla,’* first published by Editora Política, which appeared in Pathfinder’s English edition a few years later.

In 1996, again working with Editora Política, we brought out a new edition in English of Che’s *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58*, another of the most important documents of the history of the Cuban Revolution. It too had been long out of print in English. As we worked on that book,

our collaboration with comrades in the leadership of the Combatientes expanded. More than a dozen compañeros, mobilized by compañera Iraida, worked to track down information needed for the extensive glossary containing almost every name that appears in the pages of *Episodes*. They helped us ensure the accuracy of maps, charts, order of battles, etc. They identified comrades in photos. And more. The work we did together on that Pathfinder edition was incorporated into the new edition in Spanish published by Editora Política soon afterward.

And so it went, one book leading to another—including more and more published simultaneously in English and Spanish.

Making History, interviews—almost con-

array of literature.

As part of the fair program, Waters spoke at a meeting that presented Pathfinder’s recently released title *Somos los herederos de las revoluciones del mundo*, the Spanish-language translation of *We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions*, a collection of five speeches by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the 1983-87 popular revolutionary government in the West African country of Burkina Faso. An ACRC leadership delegation headed by Brig. Gen. Gustavo Chui Beltrán attended the presentation (see article in February 28 *Militant*).

On February 17 Waters along with Pathfinder supporters from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States spent a day in Matanzas hosted by the Combatants Association there. The organization’s center was bustling with activity, from a continuing education class for senior adults, to restoration work being carried out by a number of volunteer artists and craftsmen, to a national

Continued on Page 6



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Mary-Alice Waters speaking at February 18 meeting in Cienfuegos, Cuba, sponsored by the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution. From left, Lt. Col. Flores Quintero, vice president of the ACRC in Cienfuegos province; Iraida Aguirrechu of Editora Política; Waters; and Marcelo Verdecia, brigadier general who is president of the ACRC in the province.

versations between revolutionaries—with four generals of Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces, the FAR—Néstor López Cuba, Enrique Carreras, José Ramón Fernández, and Harry Villegas.

Fertile Ground, an interview with Bolivian combatant Rodolfo Saldaña, who organized Che’s support apparatus in the cities.

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington’s First Military Defeat in the Americas by Fidel Castro and José Ramón Fernández, a book that was provided to all participants in the international conference in Havana held on the 40th anniversary of that victory.

October 1962: The ‘Missile’ Crisis as Seen from Cuba by Tomás Diez, which was

used in a similar way at the October 2002 international conference here in Havana.

From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution, a book-length interview with Victor Dreke.

Marianas in Combat, a similar interview with General Teté Puebla, the highest-ranking women in the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba.

Aldabonazo by Armando Hart.

We didn’t plan it in advance, but little by little the

cumulative breadth of this publishing effort has become substantial. The books recount not only experiences of the Rebel Army in the Sierra Maestra, but those of the anti-

Continued on Page 6



Ernesto Che Guevara, left, and Harry Villegas, Pombo. From Pathfinder’s *Pombo, A Man of Che’s ‘Guerrilla.’*

worked on together with compañeros of the Combatientes Association.

Compañera Iraida has already introduced you to some of these titles whose covers you see displayed around the room. Other compañeros will be talking about why these books are important to you here in Cuba. I want to concentrate on how—and why—they came to be edited, printed, and distributed by a publishing house in the United States. Something that many compañeros here in Cuba are at first surprised by.

For us, these books are not just about our shared history, however important that is. They are weapons in the hands of working people everywhere. As Engels once explained so clearly, communism has no

Combatants meeting

Continued from front page

members nationwide, is made up of Cubans spanning several generations who have taken part in revolutionary struggles and internationalist missions. These include the revolutionary war in the 1950s that brought down the Batista dictatorship, the fight against the U.S.-organized counter-revolutionary attacks that followed, the mobilization of volunteer combatants to aid national liberation struggles in Angola and other countries of Africa and Latin America from the 1960s to the ’80s, and the teachers and medical personnel working in Venezuela, Haiti, and other countries today.

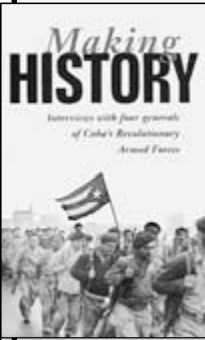
Waters and an international team of Pathfinder supporters—most of them workers in industries such as meatpacking and garment who had organized to take time off from their jobs and solicited donations from fellow workers to be able to make the trip to Cuba—had taken part in the annual Havana International Book Fair, held February 3-13. Pathfinder had a booth there with a wide

FOR FURTHER READING

EPISODES OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR, 1956-58

by Ernesto Che Guevara

A firsthand account of the military campaigns and political events that culminated in the January 1959 popular insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship in Cuba. And how these combatants forged a political leadership capable of guiding millions of workers and peasants to open the socialist revolution in the Americas. \$23.95



MAKING HISTORY

by Enrique Carreras, Harry Villegas, José Ram Fernández, Néstor López Cuba

Through the stories of four outstanding Cuban generals, each with half a century of revolutionary activity, we can see the class dynamics that have shaped our entire epoch. We can understand how the people of Cuba, as they struggle to build a new society, have for more than forty five years held

Washington at bay. \$15.95

POMBO: A MAN OF CHE’S GUERRILLA

by Harry Villegas

A never-before published story of the 1966–68 revolutionary campaign in Bolivia led by Ernesto Che Guevara. Harry Villegas is today a brigadier general in Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces \$21.95

THE BOLIVIAN DIARY by Ernesto Che Guevara \$21.95

FERTILE GROUND: CHE GUEVARA AND BOLIVIA by Rafael Saldaña \$9.95

PLAYA GIRON/BAY OF PIGS: WASHINGTON’S FIRST MILITARY DEFEAT IN THE AMERICAS by Fidel Castro and José Ramón Fernández \$20

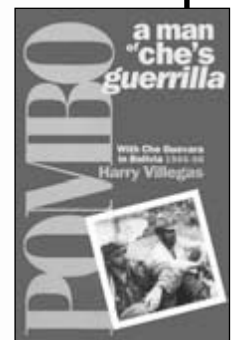
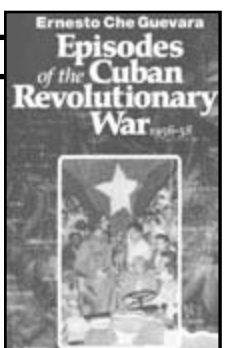
OCTOBER 1962: THE ‘MISSILE’ CRISIS AS SEEN FROM CUBA by Tomás Diez \$24

FROM THE ESCAMBRAY TO THE CONGO; IN THE WHIRLWIND OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION by Víctor Dreke \$17

MARIANAS IN COMBAT: TETE PUEBLA AND THE MARIANA GRAJALES PLATOON IN THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR by Teté Puebla \$14

ALDABONAZO: INSIDE THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY UNDERGROUND by Armando Hart \$25

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM



Cuban combatants

Continued from Page 5

women's chess tournament, including several young women who are grand masters.

The guests were given a tour of the city, including a visit to the international book fair, which after Havana is making its way through 34 other cities over a three-week period. The fair took over the center of Matanzas for the week, with some of the city's main thoroughfares closed to vehicles; throngs of people, from schoolchildren to retirees, crowded the bookstalls and food stands. The visitors were accompanied by Nelson González, president of the association in the city of Matanzas, and Roberto Valdés, president of the organization on the provincial level, both colonels in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces no longer on active duty.

The next day the visitors traveled to Cienfuegos, on Cuba's southern coast, where they were hosted by Brig. Gen. Marcelo Verdecia and Lt. Col. Flores Quintero, president and vice president of the provincial ACRC, respectively. They were treated to a tour of the city and lunch at a farm, run by the Combatants Association, that supplies food for local association members.

The meeting in Cienfuegos was held at the city museum. With large blow-ups of several Pathfinder book covers in the background, the speakers included Waters, Quintero, and

Teté Puebla; *From the Escambray to the Congo* by Victor Dreke; and *Aldabonazo* by Armando Hart.

Aguirrechu also noted the importance of the work by Pathfinder supporters with the five Cubans serving long sentences in U.S. federal prisons on frame-up espionage charges.

Years of collaboration with Combatants

Waters explained the collaboration from the leadership of the Combatants over the past 12 years that made these books possible, beginning with a new English-language edition of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*, for which Brig. Gen. Harry Villegas (known by his nom de guerre, Pombo) and others provided crucial assistance.

Over this period, she reported, "the total cumulative sales of these books, in both English and Spanish, now exceeds 50,000 copies! It's a clear registration of the thirst for the truth about the Cuban Revolution among those who refuse to accept that there is something 'natural' and unchangeable about the dog-eat-dog world we confront."

Waters pointed out, "For us, these books are not just about our shared history, however important that is." These titles are published "because working people in the United States and elsewhere outside of Cuba need them as we prepare for the class battles ahead" (see text of talk by Waters on page 5).

Surprised about such a publisher in U.S.

Quintero began by saying he had previously seen some of these Pathfinder books, which the national leadership of the Combatants Association has sent to the provincial associations across the island. Picking up on a comment by Waters that many in Cuba are surprised when they find out that a publishing house in the United States has edited and published such books, he said that was his reaction, too. He also referred to an article he had seen in *Perspectiva Mundial* about the Sept. 5, 1957, uprising in Cienfuegos during the revolutionary war.

"We've been receiving issues of the magazine, so we know about your work. You are playing an important role inside the United States, where information is manipulated by the media," he said.

During the lively discussion period several combatants took the floor. Rafael Pérez asked how Pathfinder was able to produce books such as these inside the United States. Elvia Pérez, a retired captain in the Interior Ministry who had taken part in the revolutionary underground in the 1950s and was later a founding member of Cuba's revolutionary militias, asked whether communists in the United States faced persecution.

Waters spoke about the role of some 200 supporters of the communist movement around the world and how they organize their work using the internet to produce the arsenal of revolutionary books and pamphlets—a description that drew keen attention and smiles from many in the audience. She explained how communists use the political space that exists to reach out to working people in struggle and revo-



Cuban Council of State Office of Historical Affairs
Fidel Castro (above) speaking to peasants in the Sierra Maestra mountains in eastern Cuba, 1958. Photo appears in Pathfinder's *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* by Ernesto Che Guevara. These books are about the men and women who "accomplished things they never even dreamed were possible," said Mary-Alice Waters. Inset, participants in the Cienfuegos meeting bought some 60 books at the Pathfinder book table after the program.



Militant/Jonathan Silberman



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Book fair in Matanzas, February 17.

Iraida Aguirrechu, a senior editor at Editora Política, the publishing house of the Cuban Communist Party. Verdecia joined them on the speakers platform.

Aguirrechu, who as a student participated in the struggle against the Batista dictatorship and is a member of the Combatants Association in Havana, introduced Waters as the president of Pathfinder Press and a leader of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party. She described some of the Pathfinder titles being featured at the event, from *Pombo*, *A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*, by Harry Villegas; to *Making History: Interviews with Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces*; *Marianas in Combat* by

lutionary-minded youth with these political weapons.

In reply to a question from another combatant, Luis Marino Torres, about support for the five Cuban revolutionaries locked up in U.S. prisons today, Waters noted that the five receive Pathfinder books in both English and Spanish that they use as part of the political work they do among fellow prisoners.

At the end of the discussion period, General Verdecia declared, "Now, let's buy some books!"

Audience members quickly crowded around the literature tables, purchasing some 60 books and pamphlets. These included a dozen titles that the Combatants bought for future use with the groups of students they had invited to the meeting but who had been unable to attend because of exams scheduled for that day.

Mary-Alice Waters presentation

Continued from Page 5

Batista military officers like Fernández and Carreras; those of the March 13 National Directorate and the Escambray; those of the July 26 Movement cadres who led the struggle in the cities; the participation in the revolutionary war of some of the cadres who were women, like Teté; the struggle against the counterrevolutionary bands in the Escambray; Playa Girón; the October Crisis; and those who volunteered and helped lead some of the most important internationalist missions, from the Congo to Bolivia, from Syria to Nicaragua and Angola.

I want to share with you something that surprised even me when I added up the figures as I was preparing this presentation. In roughly the last decade, the total cumulative sales of these books, in both English and Spanish, now exceeds 50,000 copies! It's a clear registration of the thirst for the truth about the Cuban Revolution among those who refuse to accept that there is something "natural" and unchangeable about the dog-eat-dog world we confront.

The book we are preparing now for publication later this year, *Our History Is Still Being Written*, continues to expand the range of experiences. It is an interview with three generals of the FAR of Chinese origin—Gustavo Chui Beltrán, Armando Choy, and Moisés Sío Wong. It tells their stories as part of the revolutionary war, especially, and Cuba's internationalist combat in Angola. It also includes an entire section on the history and impact of Chinese immigration in Cuba, which was proportionally greater than anywhere else in the Americas, includ-

ing the United States.

Common characteristics

These books all share two common characteristics. They are by and about the ordinary men and women who—when each made a choice half a century ago about what to do next with their lives—were not setting out to change the course of history. Like many of you here this afternoon, they "only" wanted to live free of the brutal, U.S.-backed dictatorship of [Fulgencio] Batista and reassert the dignity and sovereignty of the Cuban people. They decided to do that "by any means necessary," as Malcolm X—one of greatest leaders of the Black struggle and of American working people—often said. And they stubbornly refused to settle for anything less.

That is what led to the opening of the first socialist revolution in the Americas, which has indeed changed the course of human history. Along that road, those men and women themselves were transformed, accomplishing things they never even dreamed were possible.

The back cover copy for *Making History* says it well: Through the stories of these four generals "we can see the class dynamics that have shaped our entire epoch. We can understand how the people of Cuba, as they struggle to build a new society, have for more than 45 years held Washington at bay."

These books share another distinction. They seek to tell the truth about the Cuban Revolution, warts and all—not a sanitized version that avoids all the complexities, uncertainties, errors, conflicts, and painful decisions. And this is important. As Armando Hart writes in his epilogue to *Aldabonazo*, "Revolutions are not a stroll through beauti-

Continued on Page 11

'New International' no. 13

OUR POLITICS START WITH THE WORLD by Jack Barnes

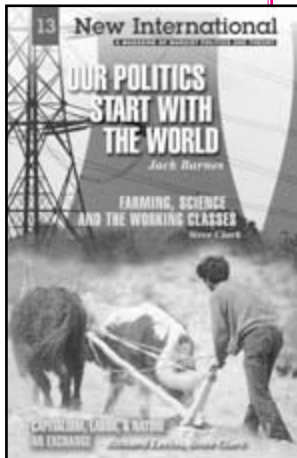
The huge economic and cultural inequalities between imperialist and semicolonial countries, and among classes within almost every country, are produced, reproduced, and accentuated by the workings of capitalism. For vanguard workers to build parties able to lead a successful revolutionary struggle for power in our own countries, says Barnes, our activity must be guided by a strategy to close this gap.

Also in *NI* no. 13

Farming, Science & the Working Classes Steve Clark
Capitalism, Labor, and Nature: An Exchange Richard Levins, Steve Clark
Price: \$14

'New International' no. 12

Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun by Jack Barnes
Their Transformation and Ours Socialist Workers Party National Committee Statement
Crisis, Boom, and Revolution 1921 Reports by V.I. Lenin & Leon Trotsky



WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

Co-Op miners

Continued from front page

raised more than \$400 in contributions and raffle ticket sales.

The Co-Op miners are publicizing a March 12 solidarity benefit in Price, Utah, and giving supporters an opportunity to help their struggle by buying raffle tickets for prizes to be given away at the event. The event will be held at the UMWA union hall in Price beginning with a lunch at noon followed by speakers and a raffle. So far, several hundred dollars worth of raffle tickets have been sold to miners and other workers throughout Utah who support the fight.

Co-Op miners struggle

The fight by the Co-Op miners began Sept. 22, 2003, when 75 underground coal miners, mostly Mexican-born workers, were locked-out for defending one of their co-workers who had been unjustly fired. After they were fired the miners set up picket lines and reached out for solidarity from the labor movement and others to win their jobs back and to defend their right to be represented by the UMWA.

As support grew for the Co-Op miners across the country, in June 2004 the NLRB ordered the Co-Op mine bosses to reinstate the locked-out miners and allow a union representation election.

Having failed to stifle the miners' struggle through the lockout, the Co-Op bosses tried to stack the deck against the workers by submitting a long list of Kingston family members employed at the mine, claiming they should be allowed to vote in the union representation election, miners said.

After a fact-finding hearing in July 2004 to determine who would be eligible

to vote in the election, the NLRB office in Denver issued a ruling on November 18 that excludes employees of C.W. Mining Company's Co-Op Mine "who are related by blood or marriage" to the bosses, from the vote and the collective bargaining unit. (see excerpts of decision below)

Determined to block the miners' fight for representation, the Co-Op bosses then challenged the ruling, and fired more than 30 pro-UMWA miners December 9, one week before the election, supposedly for not having proper work documents. Pending a decision on the appeal by the national labor board, Kingston family members were allowed to vote and their ballots were sealed and kept separate until a decision was reached. The Co-Op bosses also contested the votes of 27 miners who support the UMWA who were fired on the eve of the elections. The labor board has yet to rule on these ballots.

Kingston votes do not count

The January 31 ruling of the full NLRB in Washington D.C., in a two-to-one vote, denied the request for review made by C.W. Mining of the November 18 decision.

"They denied the request for review, filed by the employer and the intervenor union [IAUWU], on a decision that I issued on November 18," B. Allan Benson, director of the NLRB's regional office in Denver, told the *Deseret Morning News*. "The main issue in that decision was what the bargaining unit was going to be at the election held at the mine. And the primary issue there was whether members or relatives of members of the Davis County Co-Op would be allowed to participate." The Davis County Co-Op is



Richard Shaw/Sun Advocate

Richard Rosenblatt, center, attorney for the United Mine Workers in the Co-Op miners' fight for a union, talks to company representatives at an NLRB hearing in Price, Utah, July 2004. Sitting, from left, is Carl Kingston, company lawyer, and Charles Reynolds, personnel manager.

an association of Kingston family members. Members also refer to it as a religious order, miners report. At the July fact-finding hearing, UMWA attorney Richard Rosenblatt argued that the Kingston family members working at the mine have "a conflict of loyalty;" and "lack a community of interest" with workers who are not members of the family.

While the Co-Op bosses conceded in a post-hearing brief quoted in the NLRB November 18 decision that many of its employees are related to owners or managers, it maintained that such relationships are not uncommon in a small town and limited geographical area, and that the employee-

relatives at issue here receive no special privileges or benefits as a result of their relationship to owners or managers.

But the evidence presented by the UMWA, and later cited extensively in the November 18 NLRB decision, argued differently about the relations this capitalist family has with some of its employees.

Among the witnesses called by the UMWA lawyers was Lu Ann Kingston Cooper, who left the Kingston clan in 2000. Cooper worked for three years at the offices of the Davis County Cooperative Society helping to prepare monthly statements for members and businesses connected with

Continued on Page 9

NLRB ruling on union vote status of Utah mine bosses' relatives

Below are major excerpts from the Nov. 18, 2004, decision by National Labor Relations Board Region 27 that excludes members and relatives of the Davis County Cooperative Society, Inc., from the collective bargaining unit at the Co-Op mine. Their votes, cast in a December 17 union representation election, were not counted. On January 31, after an appeal by C.W. Mining and the International Association of United Workers Union, the national NLRB upheld the November 18 decision. The full text of the NLRB website: www.nlrb.gov/nlrb/shared_files/decisions/dde/2004dde.asp. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

On May 19, 2004, the United Mine Workers of America [sic] (herein the Petitioner), filed a petition under Section 9(c) of the National Labor Relations Act (herein the Act) seeking to represent certain employees of C. W. Mining Company, d/b/a Co-Op Mine (herein Co-op Mine or Employer). On July 20 and 21, 2004, a hearing was held in this matter before a hearing officer of the National Labor Relations Board, and the parties filed briefs following the hearing.

The parties stipulated at hearing to the appropriateness of the following unit:

INCLUDED: All full-time, regular part-time, and seasonal production and maintenance employees and plant clericals employed by the Employer at its coal mine and property in the Huntington, Utah, vicinity.

EXCLUDED: All professional, managerial, office clerical, and confidential employees and guards and supervisors as defined in the Act.

The Employer, C. W. Mining Company, is a Utah corporation operating the Co-op Mine, an underground coal mine located near Huntington, Utah. The Employer's records list approximately 220 non-supervisory unit employees, including 97 full-time and 123 part-time employees. This total includes 15 part-time and full-time seasonal employees. The International Association of United Workers Union (the Intervenor Union) was certified as the Co-op Mine production and maintenance employees' representative on January 17, 1980. The Employer and the Intervenor Union have negotiated a series of collective-bargaining agreements, the most recent of which is ef-

fective by its terms from August 8, 2001, to August 10, 2004. The United Mine Workers of America, by its petition filed May 19, 2004, seeks to replace the Intervenor as the bargaining representative of the unit employees.

This case presents the following issues: (1) Whether certain employees should be excluded from the bargaining unit either because they are members of the Davis County Cooperative Society, Inc. (herein the Davis Co-op), or because they are related to shareholders, officers, and/or supervisors, or because they work an irregular schedule; (2) whether the International Association of United Workers Union is a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act; and (3) whether Jose Ortega, Sr., should be excluded from the bargaining unit as a statutory supervisor.

Categories of employees

The Petitioner contends that three overlapping categories of employees should be excluded from the bargaining unit because they do not share a sufficient community of interest with other employees: 1) employees who are members of the Davis Co-op; 2) employee-relatives of shareholders, managers, and/or supervisors; and 3) employees who work an irregular schedule. Relying primarily on *Seton Hill College*, 201 NLRB 1026 (1973), Petitioner argues that all employees who are members of the Davis Co-op should be excluded from the bargaining unit because they owe a strong alliance to that organization and its leaders exercise control over members, as well as the Employer. In addition, the Petitioner asserts that Davis Co-op members lack the same economic interests as other employees and that they participate in an alternative economic system.

The Petitioner also contends that employees who are related to the Employer's shareholders, managers, and/or supervisors should be excluded from the bargaining unit because they do not share a community of interest with other employees and because they receive special job-related benefits.... And, with regard to employees-relatives of non-owner managers, the Petitioner contends that they receive special job-related benefits because of their familial ties, including the privilege of working part-time and exceptional flexibility in their schedules. The Petitioner also contends that the Inter-

venor Union cannot be a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act because its officers and members are linked to the Employer as relatives of its owners and managers.

The Employer would include all employees covered by the unit description and maintains that reliance on *Seton Hill College* is misplaced because Davis Co-op is not a religious order and it does not own the land or facilities of the Employer. In addition, the Employer contends that only one of its stockholders is an officer, director, or shareholder of Davis Co-op and points to the lack of evidence that its employees have taken any vow of poverty or obedience to Davis Co-op. The Employer further asserts that each employee receives his or her full wage and is not provided with housing or other economic benefits from Davis Co-op.

Workers related to owners, managers

The Employer concedes in its post-hearing brief that many of its employees are related to owners or managers, but maintains such relationships are not uncommon in a small town and limited geographical area. Citing *Pierce-Phelps, Inc.*, 341 NLRB 78 (2004), as well as several other Board cases, the Employer argues that under current Board law relatives are excluded from bargaining units only when special job-related benefits can be shown. According to the Employer, the employee-relatives at issue here receive no special privileges or benefits as a result of their relationship to owners or managers.... Finally, the Employer takes the position that the Intervenor/Incumbent Union is a labor organization within the meaning of the Act.

The Intervenor Union argues that the un-rebutted evidence of its activities as the certified collective-bargaining representative of the Co-op Mine employees establishes its status as a labor organization under the Act. In response to the Petitioner's position, the Intervenor Union contends that none of the international or local officers are related to any of the Employer's shareholders, officers, directors, or supervisors, and the record fails to establish that any employees are Davis Co-op members. In regard to the remaining issues, the Intervenor Union joins in the Employers Post Hearing Brief.

Under Section 3(b) of the Act, the Board has delegated its authority in this proceeding to the Regional Director. Based upon the

entire record in this proceeding, I find:

1. The hearing officer's rulings made at the hearing are free from prejudicial error and are affirmed.

2. The Employer, C. W. Mining Company, d/b/a Co-op Mine, is a Utah corporation engaged in underground coal mining at its facility located near Huntington, Utah....

3. The Petitioner, United Mine Workers of America, is a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act and claims to represent certain employees of the Employer.

4. The Intervenor/Incumbent, International Association of United Workers Union, is a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act and claims to represent certain employees of the Employer.

5. For the reasons discussed below, a question affecting commerce exists concerning the representation of employees of the Employer within the meaning of Sections 9(c)(1) and 2(6) and (7) of the Act.

6. The following employees of the Employer constitute an appropriate unit for purposes of collective bargaining within the meaning of Section 9(b) of the Act:

Included: All full-time and regular part-time and seasonal production and maintenance employees, including plant clericals, employed by the Employer at its coal mine facility located near Huntington, Utah.

Excluded: All office clerical employees, confidential employees, professional employees, managerial employees, guards, supervisors as defined in the Act, and all employees who are Davis Cooperative Society, Inc. members and/or family members as described in this Decision and Direction of Election....

III. CONCLUSION

Consistent with the above, I find that the employees of C.W. Mining Company, d/b/a/ Co-op Mine, who are related by blood or marriage to past or present members of the Davis County Cooperative Society, Inc., are excluded from the appropriate unit for purposes of collective bargaining. There are approximately 64 eligible employees in the unit found to be appropriate. I further find that the International Association of United Workers Union is a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act, and that Jose Ortega is not a supervisor under Section 2(11) of the Act and should be included in the bargaining unit.

How Cuba aided anticolonial struggle in Africa

Below is an excerpt from *Che Guevara Speaks*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for March. It first appeared in the March 17-23, 1965, issue of the Moroccan weekly *Libération*. Guevara was interviewed by the publication shortly after he returned to Algeria from visiting a half-dozen other African countries. While in Algeria Guevara also addressed the Second Economic Seminar of the Organization of Afro-Asian Solidarity. *Che Guevara Speaks* was first published in December 1967, two months after Guevara's death. At the time, it was the first collection in English of the speeches and writings of the outstanding Cuban revolutionary. Copyright © 1967 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

QUESTION: Mr. Minister, since this is the first time that Cuba has participated as a full member in a conference of the Afro-Asian Organization, I would like to ask you first how you visualize widening this organization to include Latin America?

ANSWER: I think that the Organization of Afro-Asian Solidarity can be widened to include Latin America quite easily. The procedural question is not of any importance. The real problem resides in the fact that in Latin America there is hardly a government that is struggling against imperialism. It is necessary to designate popular movements. But there are more movements that call themselves popular than really live up to the name. In any case, the Secretariat of the Organization of Afro-Asian Solidarity has been able to work out some concrete proposals on this point.



The Nationalist (Dar es Salaam)
Ernesto Che Guevara at a press conference in Tanzania, Feb. 18, 1965, during trip to Africa. At right is Pablo Rivalta, Cuba's ambassador to Tanzania; at left is Juan Rodríguez González.

QUESTION: You have just made a tour of Africa; could you tell us about the aim of your trip as well as your impressions of the general situation in Africa in relation to the needs of the struggle against neocolonialism?

ANSWER: The aim of the tour I just made of Africa was to strengthen the ties between Cuba and the African countries. It enabled me to explain the Cuban revolution and particularly to learn.

I think that the struggle against neocolonialism is one form of the struggle against imperialism. The struggle against neocolonialism and the struggle against imperialism can be separated for tactical reasons, but it must be kept in mind that it's the same struggle against the same enemy. Despite their own differences, the imperialists under the leadership of the U.S.A. are united in the Congo and wherever there is a confrontation over an issue of importance for the future of Africa. That's why the struggle against such neocolonialist countries cannot be separated from the general struggle against imperialism.

There is an alternative that appears approximately as follows:

Either the progressive countries constitute a homogeneous bloc in order to struggle against U.S. imperialism in the

Congo, and after the victory against imperialism there, continue the struggle against the neocolonialist countries that constitute the bases of aggression (naturally, this is not a question of a military struggle).

Or the situation will remain fluid, permitting the Americans to strike separate blows at the weakest countries (it is necessary to draw the lesson of the assassination of the prime minister of Burundi and what followed). In this case the progressive countries will be partially isolated at the moment when they should struggle against the American penetration, beginning in the Congo.

In short, the battle of the Congo must, for the African countries, have the meaning of a historic stage that will either determine their advance or their retreat. Victory in the Congo will show the Africans that national liberation opens the way for the construction of socialism; a defeat will open the way for neocolonialism. Socialism or neocolonialism, that is the stake for all of Africa in the encounter now taking place in the Congo.

QUESTION: Many African countries are still under imperialist domination reminiscent of Cuba under Batista. I would like to ask you to tell us what the characteristic elements of the situation were in Cuba that

brought about the revolution.

ANSWER: The situation in Cuba under Batista was not much different from that of the African countries you mention. In particular, Cuba was a neocolonialized country where the national bourgeoisie had played out its role. In this sense, Cuba was already "ripe" for the revolution. But in another sense, the situation in Cuba was not any "riper" objectively than other places in Latin America; it could even be said that it was more advanced in Guatemala or Argentina.

But what is most important is not the "objective conditions" but the subjective conditions; that is, in the final analysis, the determination of the revolutionary movement. The revolution is not an apple that falls when it is ripe! You have to make it fall, and it was precisely this that was our historic role, especially Fidel Castro's.

QUESTION: The Cuban revolution has sometimes been considered to be an "exceptional phenomenon."

ANSWER: There was one exceptional phenomenon in my opinion, that was the presence of a man who, against the dogmatic conceptions, against the "waiting" or defeatist attitudes that dominated the revolutionary forces, was able to see farther, to show the people the road, and stay at the head of the revolution during the armed struggle and today during the construction of socialism. I don't know if it's necessary to name him!

But the problem remains posed. Is a Fidel Castro indispensable to a revolution?

Within the framework of the Cuban revolution, perhaps Fidel Castro was necessary to show the road, to demonstrate that it was possible to do what he did with his people. But if Fidel Castro was necessary to our revolution, more Fidels are not necessary for other revolutions!

Yesterday the progressive movement was hunting with a magnifying glass for the exact moment when the "objective conditions" and the subjective conditions would coincide and provoke the revolution, without, however, ever finding it!

Today, the danger is different—to start hunting with the same magnifying glass for a Fidel Castro!

And what is lost in the second case is not something small, but political power, which must be the first task of the revolutionist. Until he has obtained it, he has done nothing.

March

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

Letters from Prison

by James P. Cannon

Prison letters of a revolutionary leader. Discusses how to educate and organize a communist movement to stand up to wartime repression and prepare for the emerging labor battles. \$22.00

Special price: \$16.50

Che Guevara Speaks

by Ernesto Che Guevara

Selected speeches and writings. \$15.00

Special price: \$11.25

50 años de guerra encubierta El FBI contra los derechos democráticos

(50-Year Domestic Contra Operation)

by Larry Seigle

How the working-class vanguard has fought over the past 50 years to defend democratic rights against government and employer attacks. \$7.00

Special price: \$5.25

Socialism on Trial

by James P. Cannon

The basic ideas of socialism, explained in testimony during the trial of 18 leaders of the Minneapolis Teamsters union and the Socialist Workers Party during World War II. \$16.00

Special price: \$13.50

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

OFFER GOOD UNTIL MARCH 31

—IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Road. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: bhmswp@yahoo.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net
San Francisco: 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

COLORADO: Craig: 11 West Victory Way, Suite 205. Zip: 81625. Mailing address: P.O. Box 1539. Zip: 81626. Tel: (970) 824-6380. E-mail: swpcraig@yahoo.com

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206 Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net; **Tampa:** 1441 E. Fletcher, Suite 421. Zip: 33612. Tel: (813) 910-8507. E-mail: TOC1004@aol.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515. Zip 30321. Tel: (404) 768-1709. E-mail: swpatlanta@aol.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@cs.com

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 12 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Mailing address: P.O. Box 261. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: bostonswp@cs.com

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 4208 W. Vernor St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 44739. Zip: 48244-0739. Tel: (313) 554-0504.

E-mail: Detroitswp@netzero.net

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 113 Bernard St., West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEBRASKA: Omaha: P.O. Box 7005. Zip: 68107. E-mail: omahaoc@netscape.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Avenue, 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@yahoo.com

NEW YORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@yahoo.com

OHIO: Cleveland: 11018 Lorain Ave. Zip: 44111. Tel: (216) 688-1190. E-mail: swpcleveland@yahoo.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Hazleton: 69 North Wyoming St. Zip: 18201. Tel: (570) 454-8320. Email: swpnepa@verizon.net **Philadelphia:** 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: PhiladelphiaSWP@yahoo.com **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave. Suite 225. Zip. 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP@netscape.com

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St. Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@ev1.net

UTAH: Price: 11 W. Main St. Rm. 103. Zip: 84501 Tel: (435) 613-1091. utahswp@yahoo.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 722-1315. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Avenue South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@yahoo.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@bigpond.com

CANADA

ONTARIO: Toronto: 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, M6r 3A9 Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

QUEBEC: Montreal: 6955 Boul St-Michel, Suite 202. Postal code: H2A 2Z3. Tel: (514) 284-7369. E-mail: lc_montreal@sympatico.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 1202. E-mail: kb-reykjavik@simnet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauack@paradise.net.nz

Christchurch: Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Postal address: P.O. Box 13-969. Tel: (3) 365-6055. E-mail: clchch@paradise.net.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bjulvägen 33, kv, S-122 41 Enskede. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@telia.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: First Floor, 3 Grosvenor St., Haymarket. Postal Code: EH12 5ED. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@btinternet.com

A hot poker?—In a rapid retreat, Harvard University president Lawrence Summers appointed a



Harry Ring

female faculty task force to hire additional female professors by fall and, perhaps by spring. His chauvinist remarks about “innate” limits of women professors sparked anger among students, teachers, and graduates.

Divine justice?—Lawyers

for Robert Harlan appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court to scrap a death sentence imposed by a Denver jury. It was learned that jury deliberations included five jurors who presented Bible verses as arguments for the death penalty.

Capitalist education—It hardly seemed new—a *Times* of London headline: “Rich six times as likely as poor to attend university.” But wait, there’s more.

Columnist makes a point—In a subsequent article, *Times* columnist Tony Halpin tackled a government report claiming increased unruliness in low-income school areas. Halpin summed the issue up crisply: “Children’s prospects are still too heavily influenced by

birth and geography.”

How proud it is—Hungry for tourists, businesspeople in Ossining, New York, want to build a museum inside Sing Sing, the notorious prison. With walls topped by razor barbed wire, Sing Sing holds 1,750 maximum-security prisoners. And, in its 180-year-history, 614 people have been electrocuted. The most “famous” were Ethel and Julius Rosenberg who were railroaded to the chair in 1953 as Soviet spies. A local politician says museum visitors will not see the prisoners and assures the museum will be done “in good taste.”

P.S.—In the time of socialism, prison museums will have rich educational value. Visitors will

grapple to comprehend the horror of these institutions. They will see how the disappearance of the penal system will provide a measure of how far world civilization had advanced. Meanwhile, it rests on our shoulders to help speed the day.

The rip-off system—“Connecticut—A study ordered by the Legislature found that college students in the state are suffering textbook ‘sticker shock.’ Most of the more than 500 students surveyed described textbooks as sometimes, or always, expensive. More than three out of five said they spent \$300 to \$700 a semester [twice a year] for textbooks.”—News Item.

Cold as a corporate heart—Oklahoma officials are considering if Electric Power—Public

Service Company broke state rules when it shut off electricity to Lloyd Coverdelle, 89, who owed a two-month, \$330 bill. Three days after heat and light was cut off he was found dead of hypothermia.

Better late...—“U.S. Territory: Puerto Rico—The Environmental Protection Agency added Vieques to its list of toxic Superfund sites, paving the way for a federally funded cleanup of an island used for decades for Navy bombing exercises. The EPA will conduct a study to determine the level of contamination from toxic material like mercury, lead, TNT, and napalm. The Navy left Vieques in May 2003 after years of protests by residents and activists.”—*USA Today*.

Washington, Tokyo: defense of Taiwan ‘common objective’

Continued from front page

military relationship with U.S. imperialism in relation to Taiwan registers another step in the drive by the Japanese ruling class to increase the use of its military to defend its imperialist interests around the world.

China responds to threat

“The Chinese government and Chinese people firmly oppose the U.S.-Japan statement on the Taiwan issue, which concerns China’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security,” said Kong Quan, a spokesman for China’s foreign ministry.

An article in *China Daily* said the revision of the U.S.-Japan security pact is “nothing short of blatant meddling in China’s internal affairs, and amounts to a direct challenge to our sovereignty, territorial integrity, and State security.”

The article noted that this was the first time the issue of Taiwan had been mentioned “explicitly” in the military pact between Washington and Tokyo. The 1998 U.S.-Japan security pact reportedly included the more indirect phrase, “areas surrounding Japan that have an important influence on Japan’s peace and security.”

With the victory of the Chinese revolution in 1949, the defeated forces of the capitalist government headed by Chiang Kai shek, which had the full backing of U.S. imperialism, fled to the island of Formosa, also known as Taiwan. Washington dispatched the U.S. 7th Fleet to prevent Chiang’s forces from being overrun. In 1955 Washington signed a “mutual” security treaty with Chiang’s regime, arming the capitalist government in the breakaway Chinese province to the teeth.

Washington has used Taiwan as a dagger aimed at the Chinese workers state. In 1958, the regime in Taiwan moved troops onto the coastal islands of Quemoy and

Matsu, blocking key mainland Chinese ports. Washington threatened nuclear war when China defended itself.

Expansion of Chinese Navy

Washington has expressed growing fears that China may pose a challenge to U.S. imperialism’s interests in the region. U.S. officials are particularly alarmed that Washington’s massive Navy may soon be challenged by the growing size and sophistication of Beijing’s.

In a meeting of the Senate Armed Services Committee February 17, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was asked if he was “concerned about projections that the Chinese fleet may well surpass the American fleet in terms of numbers in just a decade’s time.” Rumsfeld responded that it is an issue the Defense Department is “concerned about and is attentive to.” He said Beijing’s defense budget has been growing “sometimes in double digits.”

“We don’t have a great deal of visibility into that, but their budgets are growing significantly in defense things,” Rumsfeld said. “They’re purchasing a great deal of relatively modern equipment from Russia. And as you pointed out, they have been expanding their navy and expanding the distances from the People’s Republic of China that their navy ventures.”

Rumsfeld added that “we hope and pray [China] enters the civilized world in an orderly way.” Defense department spokesman Lawrence Di Rita said later that Rumsfeld “did not mean to suggest China was not a civilized nation,” the *New York Times* reported.

“In 2004, China increased its ballistic missile forces deployed across from Taiwan and rolled out several new submarines,” CIA director Porter Goss told the Senate Intelligence Committee a day earlier.

“China continues to develop more robust, survivable nuclear-armed missiles, as well as conventional capabilities for use in regional conflict.

Goss added that “China is increasingly confident and active on the international stage, trying to ensure it has a voice on major international issues, to secure access to natural resources, and to counter what it sees as United States efforts to contain or encircle it.”

EU arms embargo against China

The U.S. government is seeking to convince its rivals in Europe that they should extend a 15-year-old arms embargo against China. “There is a deep concern in our country that a transfer of weapons would be a transfer of technology to China,” Bush said, responding to a question about the arms embargo during a February 22 press conference in Belgium. The transfer of such technology “would change the balance of relations between China and Taiwan,” he said.

A team of European officials will attempt to convince the White House that the EU decision to lift the arms trade ban will not ease Beijing’s access to high-tech weapons, reported the February 21 *Wall Street Journal*. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution in February condemning the EU’s plan to end the embargo by a vote of 411 to 3.

During Bush’s visit to Europe, French president Jacques Chirac said the embargo, imposed in 1989 allegedly in response to Beijing’s crackdown on demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, was no longer justi-

fied, reported Reuters. Chirac also noted that Canada and Australia have no restrictions on arms sales to China. Despite the embargo, reported the *Journal*, some of the EU’s larger arms producers—France, Britain and Italy—sell military goods to China. In 2001 for example arms sales from EU countries to China amounted to 62 million euros, or about \$81 million dollars. By 2003 that had climbed to \$565 million.

Japanese remilitarization drive

“It would be wrong for us to send a signal to China that the United States and Japan will watch and tolerate China’s military invasion of Taiwan,” said Shinzo Abe, the acting secretary general of Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party, according to the *Washington Post*. “If the situation surrounding Japan threatens our security, Japan can provide U.S. forces with support.”

Abe’s comments about Tokyo aiding Washington militarily in a conflict with China reflect the efforts by the Japanese rulers to extend the use and capabilities of their military forces, and get the Japanese public used to the idea. The constitution imposed on Japan by the U.S. occupation following Tokyo’s defeat in the Second World War prohibit the use of Japanese troops abroad. Prime Minister Koizumi has said that his party will push to revise the constitution.

Last December Tokyo issued new national security guidelines that singled out China as a threat. The guidelines also described the military cooperation of Tokyo with Washington in a number of fields. One

Continued on Page 10

Utah miners press union fight

Continued from Page 7

Davis Co-Op, including the Co-Op mine. In her testimony, cited in the NLRB decision, she described the “service statements” and “card system” used instead of paychecks to compensate members of the order. Members of the order received debit-type cards of different colors depending on how much the card is worth, which can only be used at businesses owned by the Kingston family.

“Members with unlimited spending power receive a blue card,” Cooper testified, according to Benson’s ruling, “those whose spending level is limited by Davis Co-Op, receive a green card and those who are ‘on the edge of getting a green card’ are issued a yellow card.”

“The specific messages she recalled from the training meetings include being told that overtime pay for members was not necessary because they were working for the kingdom of God,” the NLRB decision says of Cooper’s testimony.

“The special status of part-time employee relatives is evident in their rotating weekend schedule and in the degree of flexibility they are allowed in deciding when they will work,” said Benson in his decision.

“Special status is evident in the wage difference between employee-relative and non-relatives.... The record contains

little explanation for why employee-relative are paid substantially less than non-relative,” continued Benson, other than the information provided by Lu Ann Kingston Cooper.

In this decision, Benson said, “I find that the Employer is principally owned, controlled, managed and supervised by family members, and the interests of employees who are family members are closely allied with those of the Employer.”

“Before the strike most Kingston relatives at the mine were the bosses and other Kingston workers only worked on weekends,” said Juan Salazar, a leader of the fight at Co-Op. The miner described how when they went back to work in July 2004, “about half the workforce were relatives of the Kingston family and the other half Mexican.”

Salazar said one of the mine bosses, Jared Stephens, used to tell them, “Why don’t you go to another mine since they pay so little here.” They wanted us to leave, said Salazar. “They were afraid of the union vote.”

The Co-Op miners continue to ask their supporters to make financial contributions and send letters of solidarity. Checks can be made out to the Co-Op Miners Fund and sent to UMWA District 22, 525 East 100 South, Price, Utah 84501.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



March 7 1980

The British steel strike, now almost two months old, is shaping up into a major test of strength between the British workers and the Conservative Party (Tory) government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The strike by 100,000 workers at the government-owned British Steel Corporation (BSC), which produces more than 85 percent of the country’s output, is the first national strike by steelworkers since the 1926 general strike by all workers in Britain.

Key issues in the strike are jobs and wages.

The workers, organized mainly by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, are demanding a wage raise of 20 percent to keep up with the 17.5 percent rate of inflation. The maximum that the BSC has offered is 8 percent (originally only 2 percent!), with an additional 4 percent linked to productivity increases.

The issue of jobs, however, is even more crucial for the steelworkers. The BSC is pressing to eliminate 52,000 jobs, a third of the total work force. With only 152,000 jobs now existing in steel, a decline from the 1965 total of 317,000, this looms as a stunning blow.



March 7, 1955

DETROIT—Every 48 seconds a new car rolls off the assembly line here at Ford’s giant Rouge plant in the current production race between the Big Three in auto. Total weekly production for the industry rose above 190,000 last week, coming within 6,000 of the all-time high set in 1950.

At the present production rate the total 1955 output forecast by the auto corporations will be completed rather early in the year. The lay-offs that can then be expected bring into view the possibility of yet another new record for Detroit: a rise in 1955 unemployment above the 200,000 peak reached last year.

Existing unemployment in the city is due in part to an expanding labor force. Young people graduating from school and veterans who have finished their hitch in the armed forces enter the labor market looking for jobs. Workers drift into Detroit from other regions, especially the south, seeking employment in auto.

To get rid of those who drift into the city the Welfare Department last year offered applicants for public relief one-way tickets back to wherever they came from.

Build the world youth festival in Venezuela

We encourage young people to go to Caracas, Venezuela, on the week of August 7–15 to take part in the 16th World Festival of Youth and Students. We urge you to work with others in your area over the coming months to build the biggest and broadest possible delegation from this country to the international festival.

Like the preceding world youth festivals in Havana in 1997 and Algiers in 2001, this gathering will bring together thousands of students, workers, and other youth from every continent who are looking for ways to fight imperialist oppression and exploitation everywhere, from the Mideast to the Americas.

The fact that this festival takes place in Venezuela, a political flash point in the world today, provides a special opportunity. It’s a chance to learn firsthand about the intensifying struggles of workers and farmers in Venezuela for land, jobs, literacy, and improved living conditions in face of efforts by Venezuelan capitalists, backed by Washington, to overthrow the government of President Hugo Chávez and push back the gains and self-confidence that working people have won. It’s a chance to learn about the example of internationalist Cuban volunteers working in Venezuela as teachers and medical workers—a glimpse of what workers and farmers can accomplish when they make a revolution and take state power as they have done in Cuba.

At a recent meeting of the U.S. National Preparatory Committee (NPC), which is organizing the U.S. delegation to the festival, participants heard reports from a dozen newly formed local organizing committees on their initial efforts to build delegations from their areas. Across the country there are opportunities right now to work with others to form local organizing committees in cities where they don’t exist and to expand out from existing coalitions to other campuses and elsewhere in sur-

rounding regions, doing so through the national committee. Reaching out to involve students, workers, farmers, and other youth, including a united effort to draw in the broadest range of organizations interested in building the festival, will maximize the number of people who can attend the gathering in Caracas.

In a number of cities, local organizing committees are holding meetings, giving presentations to student groups, setting up information tables on campuses, distributing the NPC’s festival brochure and local literature, and organizing other activities to promote participation in the world youth festival. These efforts provide opportunities to explain the class struggle unfolding in Venezuela, report on the internationalist work of Cuban volunteers there, and mobilize defense of Venezuela and Cuba in face of Washington’s confrontational course and military build-up in neighboring Colombia. Some have organized showings and discussions of *The Revolution Will Not be Televised*, a documentary that shows the mass working-class mobilizations in Caracas that were key in defeating the April 2002 U.S.-backed military coup in Venezuela.

For young workers and students who are potentially attracted to the working-class resistance here and abroad, getting involved in such political work can help draw them closer to an understanding of the class struggle and the need to join a movement to make a revolution of workers and farmers in the United States or wherever we may live.

One of the first questions young people interested in attending the world youth festival in Venezuela will ask is: how can I get there? In each city, collective efforts to plan travel, raise funds to cover costs, and work out other practical arrangements are needed to ensure the largest possible delegation to the international gathering.

Washington, Tokyo draft new ‘security’ accord

Continued from Page 9

example the document points to is the close collaboration between the two governments in working to deploy a ballistic missile defense system aimed at China and north Korea.

Last September the U.S. Navy deployed state-of-the-art Aegis destroyers in the Sea of Japan off the waters of north Korea laying the foundation for a U.S. “missile shield” that includes Japan.

The two imperialist powers have also been working closely as part of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). Under the initiative, Washington and its imperialist allies assert the right to stop, board, and confiscate the cargo of any ship they claim to suspect of carrying “weapons of mass destruction.”

In 2004 Tokyo deployed its first troops abroad since 1945,

sending a detachment of hundreds of soldiers to join in the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq.

As part of the militarization drive the Japanese rulers have begun to take steps aimed at reviving Japanese nationalism and painting over the crimes of Japanese imperialism’s past military exploits. Four times since he became prime minister in 2001, Koizumi has visited the Yasukuni Shrine where Japanese war dead are buried.

Japan’s minister of education, Nariaki Nakayama, slammed Japanese history textbooks for “self laceration,” reported the Korean daily *Chosun Ilbo*. He said there should be fewer references to “comfort women” in the texts, referring to the widespread practice of the Japanese troops of abducting women to be used as sexual slaves during Japan’s imperialist expansion from 1910–1945.

Message of solidarity with Korean people from SWP, YS leaders

Below is a statement sent by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes and Young Socialists leader Olympia Newton to the Workers’ Party of Korea on the occasion of north Korea’s February 16 national holiday.
February 15, 2005

Kim Jong Il
General Secretary Workers’ Party of Korea
Pyongyang,
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Dear Comrade Kim Jong Il,
The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists send revolutionary greetings on the occasion of the February 16 national celebration in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. We take advantage of this occasion to reassert our steadfast solidarity with the Korean people’s continuing efforts to win national sovereignty and reunification amid unrelenting military threats and efforts by U.S., Japanese, and other imperialist governments to tighten the financial and economic squeeze against the DPRK and commit acts of piracy against its vessels in ports and on the seas the world over. Just this week the big business press boasted of Tokyo’s new measures that would effectively bar DPRK flagships from its ports.

The U.S. capitalist rulers will never forget and have never forgiven the Korean people for dealing them their first ever military defeat, just over half a century ago—an historic event celebrated, along with other such victories by the toilers, by revolutionaries and oppressed people the world over.

Washington’s demands on the DPRK, Iran, and other semicolonial countries to abandon nuclear enrichment programs needed to produce electrical power reek of imperial arrogance. A majority of the world’s working people have no access to modern forms of fuel or electricity. This fact alone illustrates the vast disparity today in social and cultural conditions created and reproduced by the social relations of capitalism. We defend efforts by the DPRK and governments of other oppressed nations in Asia, the Pacific, Africa, and the Americas to bridge this gap, one that keeps growing, by extending access to electricity to billions who live without it. Such advances strengthen the capacity of the toilers to orga-

nize and advance politically. And the development and use of nuclear technology is necessary to make this possible.

We unconditionally support the right of semicolonial nations threatened by imperialism to arm and defend themselves by whatever means necessary and effective. Here too, imperialism shows enormous hypocrisy. America’s propertied rulers—whose government is the only one ever to use nuclear weapons, against the Japanese and Korean residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—press full steam ahead in their efforts to achieve nuclear first-strike capacity, including the initial deployment last year (in collaboration with Tokyo) of a land- and sea-based antiballistic missile weapons system. At the same time, U.S. finance capital is escalating its belligerent demands that north Korea dismantle its nuclear program.

This summer, the Young Socialists, along with thousands of young people from organizations around the world, will attend the 16th World Festival of Youth and Students in Caracas, Venezuela. The gathering will be a chance for young people opposed to imperialism to advance support worldwide for ongoing struggles of workers resisting the bosses’ assaults, of peasants and farmers fighting for land, of oppressed peoples fighting for national liberation, of women and their supporters fighting for emancipation. Speaking on behalf of millions the world over, they will demand an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, Afghanistan, the Korean peninsula and its waters, and wherever else they are trampling on national sovereignty, as well as Washington’s threats against the peoples of Venezuela, Iran, the DPRK, and elsewhere.

Among these demands, support for the Korean people’s just call for reunification, sovereignty, and dignity will be advanced unconditionally by members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialists, and many others not only in Caracas but the world over.

Fraternally,

s/Jack Barnes
Jack Barnes
National Secretary
Socialist Workers Party

s/Olympia S Newton
Olympia Newton
Young Socialists

Korea

Continued from front page

that country has decreased, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. According to the *Journal*, the number of north Korean ships arriving in Japanese ports decreased by 24 percent between 2002 and 2003. The news journal *Japan Today* said trade between north Korea and Japan is at its lowest point since statistics on trade between the two nations were first released in 1977.

In December, Tokyo also halted food aid to north Korea.

Pyongyang protests aggression

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal* November 2, the north Korean ambassador and deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, Han Song Ryol, outlined the points in Washington’s hostile policy toward north Korea that precluded the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) from participating in the six-party negotiations. He noted the U.S. government’s labeling of north Korea as part of an “axis of evil”; economic sanctions against his country; and the passing of the so-called North Korean Human Rights Act in October that bans U.S. aid to north Korea.

“Pyongyang won’t participate in six-party talks unless it sees real changes in these areas,” the north Korean representative said.

On February 10 north Korea announced its would withdraw from the talks indefinitely. The DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement said, “The present deadlock of the six-party talks is attributable to the U.S. hostile policy toward the north Korea.” The DPRK had been part of three six-part talks on disarmament with the governments of the United States, Japan, Russia, south Korea, and China, the last of which took place in June 2004.

Tokyo, Washington collaboration

U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld met February 19 in Washington, D.C., with their Japanese counterparts, Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura and Defense Minister Yoshinori Ohno. They discussed their response to Pyongyang’s withdrawal from the talks as well as their “common strategic objectives” in Asia and steps to strengthen their developing military cooperation.

A joint statement by the two governments said north Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile program posed a threat to Japan and to “stability” in the region, and “strongly urged” Pyongyang to return to the six-party talks and commit itself to the complete dismantling of all its nuclear programs. Chinese Communist Party official Wang Jiarui traveled to the north Korean capital February 19 to try and convince the north Korean government to return to the negotiations.

Washington is working with Tokyo to set up a ballistic missile defense (BMD) system that will give Washington first-strike nuclear capability in the region. The four U.S. and Japanese officials also issued a statement February 19 that stressed “advancing U.S.-Japan cooperative research in BMD systems, with a view to possible cooperative development.” In December the Japanese government eased a ban on defense-related exports in place since 1967 known as the “Three Principles on Arms Export.” The new law allows joint development between Washington and Tokyo on development and production of anti-ballistic missile defense systems and export of arms to the United States and for “counter terrorism.”

The Department of Defense announced in October an agreement between Washington and the government of south Korea to reduce by 12,500 the U.S. troop presence there, which currently numbers about 37,500. The first reduction took place last August. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team and associated units, totaling 5,000 troops, were pulled out of the U.S. base in downtown Seoul, south Korea’s capital, and sent to Iraq. The U.S. base in the center of Seoul is widely resented by the residents of that city. Washington has set a goal of pulling out of areas where the local population resents its troop presence.

The troop reduction is part of a package of measures to strengthen the U.S. rulers’ military capability in the area, while at the same time freeing up forces to fight in other areas of the world.

A September 24 article from the American Forces Information Service described Washington’s plans for south Korean troops to shoulder more of the military burden, while at the same time increasing the ability of U.S. and south Korean forces to fight together.

The Pentagon is allocating \$11 billion toward advanced military technology and new rapid troop deployment capabilities for its forces on the Korean peninsula. These changes are part of the U.S. military’s moves to restructure its forces into smaller, more agile and lethal units. “Combined forces modernization programs include more than 340 enhancements to strengthen deterrence [against north Korea],” the article said.

Strikers return to work at Quebec Liquor Board

BY BELINDA BURKE

MONTREAL—After 12 weeks on strike, workers at the Quebec Liquor Board (SAQ) voted February 8 to accept the board's latest contract offer and return to work. About 2,100 of the 3,800 members of the Union of Store and Office Workers of the SAQ (SEMB) attended the vote held in the Olympic Stadium here. The Montreal *Gazette* reported that cheers filled the stands as the workers voted 1,622 to 473—by a 76 percent margin—in favor of the contract recommended by the SEMB negotiating committee.

The union succeeded in pushing back one of the liquor board's key demands affecting part-time workers, who comprise almost 70 per cent of SEMB members. The SAQ had wanted to assign these workers to only one liquor store instead of to four or five, which is the current arrangement. This would have meant even fewer hours for part-time workers. With the new contract certain SAQ stores will now have priority, but the workers remain assigned to several stores as before.

In addition, the SAQ agreed to one of the union's central demands around weekend work. In the new contract, schedules that include working both weekend days will be eliminated. But the union accepted the liquor board's demand for a new category of part-time employees who will only be guaranteed a minimum of between 16 and 19.5 hours of work from Friday to Sunday in one store only. Some unionists see this as

a gain for the bosses in their efforts to gain greater control over the workforce.

The six-year contract includes wage increases of 2 percent per year and the board's agreement to create 200 new full-time positions.

During the strike the SAQ claimed it was maintaining its sales at 92 percent of their pre-strike level. The media published this claim and used it to portray the strike as futile. But since then, facts have come out in the press that suggest the strike had more of an impact than the SAQ bosses would admit. The business section of the February 12 *La Presse* reported that one distributor of wines in Quebec saw its sales to the SAQ drop by 44 percent.

In addition, the articles by journalists interviewing people leaving the SAQ stores after they opened February 11 revealed that, contrary to the impression created by the big-business press during the strike, many working people refused to cross the picket line during the walkout. "I've been buying wine from the grocery store (during the strike). I wouldn't cross the picket line in solidarity with the workers," Jocelyne Deschênes told the *Gazette*. "No way was I going to cross the line," said Claire Geneau, another shopper quoted by the Montreal daily.

Perhaps the most important result of the strike was its impact on the strikers themselves. The day after the Wal-Mart in Jonquière, Quebec, where unionized workers are negotiating a first contract, announced it was closing, the *Gazette* interviewed people

Australia protesters mark anniversary of police killing of Aboriginal youth



SYDNEY, Australia—Some 200 people marched through Redfern, Sydney, February 13 to demand the reopening of the inquest into the cop killing a year ago of Thomas "TJ" Hickey, a 17-year-old Aborigine. Witnesses said Hickey died when his bicycle was rammed by a police car that was chasing him, and he was impaled on a metal fence. The authorities had wanted from the coroner "something completely different to the truth, and they got it," march organizer Ray Jackson told the marchers, saying the responsibility of the cops involved was whitewashed in the inquest report. Hickey's killing sparked a nine-hour confrontation between Aboriginal youth and the cops in an area of Aboriginal housing in Redfern known as "the Block."

leaving a Wal-Mart in Brossard whose workers have applied for union certification with the United Food and Commercial Workers. One of those interviewed was a 49-year-old

former SAQ striker named Hélène. "They'd all have to try to unionize at the same time. That way if one Wal-Mart branch chose to shut its doors as a warning to those who would dare seek to become unionized, Wal-Mart employees throughout the province could all walk out in protest together." Having just gone through the SAQ strike, Hélène added, she knows all about strength in numbers.

'Books to prepare us for class battles ahead'

Continued from Page 6

ful meadows and gardens, where men march without difficulty or anguish."

The Cuban Revolution will never be copied, but it must be understood by those who seek to emulate it. Without truth and accuracy, what is sometimes presented as "history" only condemns us to repeat our errors, not build on lessons learned through enormous effort and sacrifice.

Because these books are needed

As much as we enjoy participating in meetings such as yesterday's in Matanzas and this one here in Cienfuegos, and as happy as we are that these books are useful to you in Cuba, Pathfinder does not publish them for that purpose. We publish these books because working people in the United States and elsewhere outside of Cuba *need* them as we prepare for the class battles ahead.

The driving force behind U.S. foreign policy—from the Middle East to Cuba to France—is not irrationality, nor is it stupidity. Just as with the course of the U.S. ruling families at home, the driving force is something far more deadly: the insatiable demands of capitalism itself. The imperial wars against the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan, which hundreds of millions the world over can see so clearly, are the external face of the sharpening offensive against the wages, job conditions, and rights of working people inside the United States. And the bosses' unrelenting drive in the factories, mines, and mills to shift the relationship of forces to their favor vis-à-vis the working class and labor movement is generating resistance. It is giving rise to unionization drives, strikes, and other battles. Out of this process, the scattered forces of a vanguard are beginning to emerge—from the packinghouses,

to the coal mines, to the garment factories.

The cellblocks at the Guantánamo Naval Station and in Iraq are the other face of the federal prisons where our five Cuban brothers are carrying out their political work today. Within those walls and bars, they act not as victims, but as revolutionary combatants, joining us on the front lines of the class struggle in the United States. The same books you have in front of you today are ones they use inside the prisons in the United States. They often ask for these books in English in order to share them more broadly with fellow inmates, but we send them in both English and Spanish whenever possible. The Spanish-speaking prison population increases daily.

Above all, we publish these books for the men and women who even today are finding each other among these vanguard forces, and for the youth attracted to their struggles—so they can *understand* the Cuban Revolution and make it their own, so they can know and gain confidence from the men and women like themselves whose actions made this revolution possible.

Our program starts with the world

For the same reason, we publish books such as the two new titles Pathfinder presented here at the international book fair this year, copies of which are available on the table here at this meeting today. *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions* is a selection of speeches by Thomas Sankara, who was the central leader of the popular revolutionary government in the West African country of Burkina Faso from 1983-87, before he was assassinated in a counter-revolutionary military coup. These are speeches that sparkle with the proletarian internationalism of that outstanding leader who spoke not only for the oppressed and exploited of Africa, but spoke as a leader of working people throughout the world.

Alongside the speeches of Sankara are copies of the most recent issue of *Nueva Internacional*, the magazine of Marxist politics and theory distributed by Pathfinder Press. From a different angle, the magazine addresses many of the same issues of the international class struggle as Sankara's speeches do. If your eye falls on nothing but the photo of Earth at Night on the back cover of that magazine, you will know its contents. You will see the abyss between the countries

of the imperialist and semicolonial worlds, and the class inequalities within them—the reality that drives the sharpening conflicts that will continue to deepen.

Born with October Revolution

To end, I want to say a word about Pathfinder Press itself. I know it is new to many of you here today. We like to say that Pathfinder was born with the October Revolution. Because that is when our forerunners in the United States began publishing speeches and writings by Lenin and others who led the first socialist revolution, who remained true to its proletarian internationalist course, and who made it possible for a communist movement to be reborn. For close to 90 years we have had one single objective: to publish and distribute as broadly as possible the books, pamphlets, and magazines necessary to build a communist party in the bastion of world imperialism, a goal inseparable from organizing and advancing the struggle for national liberation and socialism worldwide.

Along this road, we strive to let revolutionary leaders the world over speak for themselves, in their own name, not through the interpretation of manuals, or of technocrats of either academic or political lineage. These books, each one of them marked by the work of combatants of the Cuban Revolution, do just that.

It is the reason why we deeply appreciate the opportunity you have given us to be with you here today.

Documentary Film Showing on Case of the Cuban Five 'Mission Against Terror'

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Feb. 26, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5-\$10. First United Methodist Church, 1010 S. Flower St. (323) 464-1636.

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Sun., Feb. 27, 3 p.m. Casa Cuba, 6501 Telegraph Ave.

CLEVELAND

Sun., March 13, 3 p.m. Max Wohl Civil Liberties Center, 4506 Chester Ave.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

IOWA

Des Moines

U.S. Out of Iraq! No to Threats Against Syria, Iran, and Korea!

Speaker: Kevin Dwire, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., March 4, Dinner 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. Donation: Dinner \$5, program \$5, 3707 Douglas Ave., (515) 255-1707

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Fight for Land in Venezuela Fri., Mar. 4, 8 p.m. 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd fl. (973) 481-0077

PENNSYLVANIA

Hazleton

Mississippi Klansman Indicted for Murder of Civil Rights Workers

Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 26. Dinner 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m., Donation: Dinner \$5, program \$5, 69 N Wyoming St., (570) 454-8320

TEXAS

Houston

The Myth of the Social Security Crisis: What's Behind Bush's 'Ownership Society' Speaker: Tony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., March 4, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5, 4800 W 34th St., Suite C-51A, (713) 869-6550

UNITED KINGDOM

London

Oppose UK/U.S. Threats Against Syria, Iran, Korea!

Speaker: Joyce Fairchild. Fri., March 4. Dinner 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m., Donation: Dinner £3, program £3. 120 Bethnal Green Road, first fl., (Entrance on Brick Lane) 020-7613-3855

SUBSCRIBE TO

PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL

A Spanish, language socialist magazine

Special offer for new readers: \$5 for 4 months

Send your order to Perspectiva Mundial, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor New York, NY 10018

Canada farmers protest, demand gov't aid

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE
AND JOHN STEELE

PRESCOTT, Ontario—In eastern Ontario almost 1,000 farmers, small business owners, and others protested the lack of government aid to farmers, and environmental laws and other regulations that affect farmers and rural businesses, February 4. The action consisted of a seven-kilometer (1 kilometer = 0.62 miles) double-lane convoy that closed nine kilometers of westbound Highway 401 for about four hours. The demonstration ended in a rally at Angelo's truck stop near exit 721. Highway 401 is Canada's busiest highway and truck transport route.

Although farmers raised demands to protect themselves against the ravages of the developing economic depression, the federal and provincial opposition Conservative Party played a prominent role at the protest. Its speakers stoked "anti-government" sentiment, promoting the idea that "the little guy" and "rural Ontario" is being "trampled on" by taxes, regulations, and bureaucrats.

The action—which took three hours to go the distance—was part of the "Stop the Destruction" convoy organized by the Rural Revolution coalition that began January 21 with a blockade of Highway 401 in southwestern Ontario.

One hundred tractors led the huge convoy of several hundred vehicles that included tractor-trailers, pickup trucks, and passenger cars. The Prescott-Ogdensburg international bridge to the United States was blocked on the Canadian side for two hours. The original plan was to cross the bridge, but U.S. authorities denied access.

Many participants were tobacco farmers from the Tillsonburg area who were prominent in the January 21 blockade. Forty tobacco farmers traveled by bus from Tillsonburg to participate. Three others drove their tractors the full 600 kilometers over a three-day period. Tobacco farmers are demanding that Liberal Party premier of Ontario Dalton McGuinty fulfill his promise for Can\$50 million in aid to farmers (Can\$1 = US\$0.81). Also at the protest were vegetable, beef, and grain farmers.

Carolyn Knack and her husband participated in the convoy in support of her father, also a tobacco farmer near Tillsonburg. They both work at the TRW auto parts factory in tobacco country. "The farmers need support," she said. "If we don't fight back there is no future for our kids." Knack reported that there are efforts underway in her plant to bring in the Canadian Auto Workers union.

Tobacco farmers said they receive about 10 cents for the amount of tobacco used in a pack of cigarettes, which costs about \$7.00. The balance of the price goes to the profits pocketed by the tobacco companies and to taxes. To make their point, farmers at the rally burned a bail of tobacco. They said it was worth \$100 to them but \$2,400 in taxes.

Rural Revolution is a coalition of farmers and small business owners that was initiated about a year ago by the Lanark Landowners Association in collaboration with Conservative Party members of the federal parliament.

Speakers at the rally included Randy Hillier, president of the Lanark Landowners Association, and Conservative Party MPs Scott Reid, Gordon Brown, and Diane Finley, the Conservative's agricultural spokesperson. The MPs demagogically attacked both the federal and Ontario provincial Liberal governments for the farm crisis. They said "regulations for rural Ontario should reflect rural Ontario" and the main issue is protection of "property rights." They claimed the attacks on the conditions of farmers were the result of Prime Minister Paul Martin's supposed concern for the rights of "gays, Quebec, and multiculturalism" (a code word for immigrants).

"Fighting for more money doesn't fix



Canadian farmers rally for government aid during February 18 "Stop the Destruction" convoy on Highway 401 in Ontario, organized by the Rural Revolution coalition.

the problem" for farmers, said Hillier. "The problem is the market place is controlled by a few companies. Government is regulating people out of the market place and this has to be fixed."

The signs carried by tractors and trucks reflected both the influence of these Conservative Party ideas as well as farmers' demands to protect their livelihood. They included, "This land is our land. Back off government—Lanark Landowners Association"; "We need cost of production—solidarity"; "No farms, no food, then we all lose"; and "Rural business need not

die—kill the water act instead."

Rural Revolution is demanding that a series of regulatory acts being brought in by the Ontario government be withdrawn, or otherwise that farmers and rural business owners receive "just and timely" compensation for the effects of the legislation on their livelihood. Protesters said that "Greenbelt" legislation denies farmers compensation for land taken out of production, and a "safe drinking water act" would force major expenses on farmers and small business owners for costly water test reporting and treatment requirements.

Washington charges Venezuela weapons purchases 'destabilize' Latin America

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

Washington has seized on recent arms purchases by the Venezuelan government to step up its campaign of targeting Caracas as a "destabilizing" force in Latin America. At the same time, the U.S. government continues to pour military aid into Colombia, its closest ally in the region.

Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez signed agreements February 14 with the government of Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, "establishing a strategic, economic and military alliance," the *New York Times* reported. The two governments are negotiating a \$170 million purchase of 24 Brazilian-manufactured Super Tucano multi-purpose combat aircraft. The agreement follows Chávez's trip to Moscow last November, where he announced that the Venezuelan government would acquire 40 helicopters and 100,000 AK-47 assault rifles from Russia. Press reports also say that Venezuela may buy MIG-29 fighter jets from the Russian government to replace its F-16s.

"Venezuela's plans to purchase various types and large quantities of weapons are extremely troubling," said State Department spokesman Lou Fintor, according to a February 10 Reuters article. "Our concerns about these weapons purchases are heightened by Venezuela's tolerance for groups such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the Colombian terrorist group the National Liberation Army, and others."

"It's clear that there is an orchestrated campaign" [against Caracas], responded Bernardo Alvarez, Venezuelan ambassador to the United States. "I don't know why, but the thing is to create the impression that we are a hostile country, a terrorist country, a pariah state."

The government of Colombian president Alvaro Uribe has accused Caracas of harboring FARC rebel leaders and tolerating rebel military camps along their 1,400-mile shared border. In a violation of Venezuelan sovereignty, Bogotá organized the kidnapping of Rodrigo Granda, a leader of the FARC, in Caracas on December 13. Diplomatic and commercial relations between the two governments were suspended until a February 15 meeting of the two presidents in the Venezuelan capital. After the meeting Chávez said he was restoring commercial and trade agreements including the construction of a gas pipeline between the two countries, reported the Associated Press..

Bogotá is the third-largest recipient of U.S. military aid after Israel and Egypt, totaling over \$3 billion since 2000. Last October, the U.S. Congress authorized the Pentagon to double the limit on U.S. military personnel stationed in Colombia to 800 and increased from 400 to 600 the number of "private contractors" the U.S. government can hire for its military operations in the country. In the course of the border conflict over the last year, Venezuelan troops have captured more than 100 Colombian paramilitary soldiers within Venezuela. These "paramilitary" forces are rightist death squads that act as an extralegal extension of the Colombian military. Seven Venezuelan soldiers were



The Venezuelan government announced a \$170 million deal with Brazil to purchase Super Tucano combat planes.

killed by these forces during the third week in December.

Senior U.S. officials told the *Washington Times* that the U.S. State Department sent a letter of protest (formally called a demarche) February 10 to the Russian embassy in Washington for its arms agreements with the Venezuelan government.

In a State Department briefing concerning the demarche, spokesman Adam Ereli said, "our concerns about Venezuela's arms sales and the potential destabilizing effect on the hemisphere are well known to all concerned. We've raised this issue with the Russians on a number of occasions."

Venezuelan vice-president José Vicente Rangel defending Venezuela's right to purchase weapons for national defense, said that recent statements by the U.S. government have a "deliberate intention to provoke Venezuela." "Venezuela is a sovereign country that makes decisions that are of concern to Venezuelans," he said.